

EDMUND AND ELEONORA:

OR

MEMOIRS OF THE HOUSES

OF

SUMMERFIELD & GRETTON.

A NOVEL,

In Two Volumes.

By the Rev. EDMUND MARSHALL, A. M.

SEMPER EGO AUDITOR TANTUM ?*Juvenal.*

VOL. II.

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, LONDON;

BY W. EPPS, MARGATE.

1797.

EDMUND AND MILDRED

MEMOIRS OF THE HOUSE

SUMNER, FIELD & GRETTON



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VOL. II

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, LONDON;

BY W. E. MARGATE.

1857.

TO THE
INDEPENDENT FREEHOLDERS
OF THE
COUNTY OF KENT,

THE FOLLOWING WORK,

AS A SMALL TESTIMONY OF HIS ESTEEM AND VENE-
RATION FOR THAT TRULY RESPECTABLE BODY OF
HIS COUNTRYMEN,

IS INSCRIBED,

BY THE AUTHOR.

CHARING, KENT; 1797.

ERRATA.

page line		page line	
12	6 (you will pardon me)	221	6 'chiras' r Schiras
—	18 after 'plaguy toads' r the foxes	224	3 'Pulkerea' r Pulcheria
—	26 'hance' r hanfel	—	14 'chiras' r Schiras
13	15 for 'glister' r glisten	245	12 'Pulkeria' r Pulcheria
14	5 to the words 'you' and 'it'	—	18 'inamenable' r inamenable
16	3 for 'early' r by early	223	12 'let' r played
25	4 after 'boy,' dele the comma	240	last line dele soon
24	19 'manner' r manor	244	1 'Sely' r Selym
26	22 — 'lord' insert a	247	2 'ibid' ibid
27	last line 'not' r now	252	25 'afrighted' r affrighted
29	20 after 'early' r it	275	3 'killarney' r killarney
33	21 — 'leap' r over	—	22 'irrefistable' r irresistible
40	23 for 'Squirels' r Baronet's	283	8 'solation' r consolation
41	7 — 'title;' r dinner;	290	1.1. convalescene r convalescence
—	23 'claronetts' r clarionets	293	16 'Eff. hates' r Achates
45	4 'scent' r taste	295	21 'celebrated' r celebrated
—	25 'bon repast' r bon repost	296	4 'cassinas' r cassinos
47	28 'wicked' r willed	299	13 'king' r knights
52	18 'plated' r plaited	—	last line 'ventos' r ventas
53	25 after 'spiced;' dele with	300	4 'sesquenados' r sesquedillas
73	last line for 'stakes' r jokes	302	2 'Tauriers' r Tauriros
79	16 'the offering' r its opening	304	17 'Sidona' r Sidonia
84	22 'ferra-lotta' r terra-cotta	308	1 'Murilla' r Murillo
104	17 'Eding-borough' r Edinburgh	—	6 'amateur' r amateur
106	14 'bundle' r trundle	—	16 'Eскурical' r Escurial
118	3 'Munx' r Minx	312	18 after 'had' r been,
120	21 'on' r in	323	17 'attatched' r attached
147	2 'cavellers' r cavillers	326	18 'Doctor' r Doctor
—	21 'institutes' r involves in itself	332	25 'confidant' r confident
158	16 'jusnor' r justior	341	26 'partes quartus' partie quaree
160	21 'country' r county	352	16 'coupel' r couple
164	11 dele 'now'	354	2 'comprized' r composed
170	2 'complaissant' r complacent	—	23 'highly' r lightly
206	14 'marque' r marquee	370	8 'Balsamcur' r Bottomly
216	9 'formerly' r formally	372	1 'murmer' r murmur
217	7 'paralestic' r paralytic	374	25 'to' r in
218	9 'rhones' r roans	375	8 'permitted' r permitted
—	17 'Pulkerea' r Pulcheria	—	12 'strickingly' r strickenly
219	45 'paraphernalia' r paraphernalia		

The Author's distance from the Press, and consequently his inability to correct it; together, (with perhaps) the Printer's difficulty to read the Manuscript, must be the Author's apology to the purchasers, for the many Typhographical errors.

EDMUND and ELEONORA,

A NOVEL.

Augusta

CHAP. LIII.

A NEW scene was now opening in the neighbourhood of Summerfield. Conjecture had for once failed in its prediction of Lord W——'s death, or, at the least, of the unpermanency of his patriotism.—Of the paralytic affection which had been so alarming he was every day getting the better. The circulation of the blood had been gradually returning, on the side which the palsy had injured, from the time Mr. Walter Rosemary had commenced his electrical operations. The Earl daily took a promenade in his post chaise whenever the weather was tolerable, upon which occasions sometimes his sister, Lady Anne, and sometimes his

recently adopted son, Edmund, were the companions of his little tours. He had, more than once, made morning visits at Summerfield Parsonage, and at Mr. Adderley's, who was constant in his attendance at Myrtle Grove, to give lessons to the young Squire, in music, drawing, fencing, and dancing. Lord W—— would often be present when Edmund was taking his lessons, and expressed high satisfaction, as did Lady Anne at the encomiums given by both Mr. Adamson, and Mr. Adderley, to this rising hope of the house of Summerfield.

So sincere was the noble Earl in his plan of reformation, that returning health, and with it a certain degree of activity, (all which he imputed to the labours of the Hawthorn-Dale philosopher) returned him not to his old habits. He no longer gamed. His former licentiousness, in matters of intrigue, was entirely at an end, and family prayers, to the great satisfaction of Lady Anne, were regularly said morning and evening at Myrtle Grove, at which the Earl himself

himself generally attended, with every servant of his family.

Lord W——, as he well merited, grew daily more and more into favour with the friends of the houses of Summerfield and Gretton; he was become an œconomist; regularity and decorum had succeeded to a system of riot and dissipation; his tenantry, under the management of Mr. Selby, Sir Gregory Gretton's steward, instead of being dunned for payment, and their farms let at rack-rents, were all put upon a similar footing with those of the Summerfield and Hawthorn-Dale farmers. The Earl had desired that all their plans might be adopted; in consequence, a general repair of the noble Lord's farm-houses had commenced, and an universal satisfaction, in the place of murmur and discontent, pervaded throughout his estates.

On one of the mornings that he was visiting at Mr. Adderley's, taking notice of the increasing size of the amiable mistress of the Gothic cottage, addressing himself

himself to Mrs. Summerfield, who was taking her chocolate with Alicia, "I have a convention, Madam, to propose to you: Mrs. Adderley, I perceive, is in a way soon to become a mother; shall we be gossips together upon the joyful occasion? If it be a girl, Lady Anne, you, Mrs. Summerfield, and myself, will be the sponsors; if a boy, the Doctor, Lady Anne, and I, if the mother object not, will answer for the young Christian."

Alicia, and her husband, accepted the proposed honour with much grateful acknowledgment; and the Doctor, who had entered the apartment while the convention was in its course, answered for himself and his wife, that they most gladly accepted the Earl's challenge. Lady Anne, who had that morning, together with Mr. Adamson, and his pupil, accompanied her brother, affectionately taking his hand, said, "he had anticipated her in a similar proposition she had herself thought of making."

The

The Earl and his sister, with the young Edmund and his tutor, were rising to take their leave, Lord W—— being now able, with the help of his servant's arm, to rise tolerably well from the chair, when the facetious 'Squire Quicksett, and Mr. Musgrave, entered the parlour. "Odds heartlikins!" exclaimed the 'Squire, "the man of the world I wished to meet; give you joy, Lord W——, give you joy, from the bottom of my heart; you are become an altered man I understand?—Not half a year since, and I should have blushed to have been seen in your company, and now, my Lord, I am proud to meet you." Lord W—— with great cordiality took the 'Squire's hand, saying, and bowing the same time to Mr. Musgrave, "Gentlemen, I feel myself honoured by your approbation of my conduct; and, as a proof how happy I feel myself in the society of men so honest as yourselves, as the moon is now at the full, and I understand you mean to have an early dinner with our friend Adderley, if you will permit me to be of the party, we will take our
mutton,

mutton, with Alicia, and do our best, my sister, Mr. Adamson, and my boy, Edmund, according to the old fashioned saying, to win the table cloth." The Earl meant it, and it was so accepted, as a good-natured apology to Mrs. Adderley, and her husband, for so large an addition to her dining table. "My Lord," replied Alicia, with a grace which was infinitely engaging, "if her Ladyship and yourself can have the goodness to partake of the accommodations of our humble board, we shall gladly risque the loss of our best damask table cloth. Your Lordship will, however, pardon me, if I exert my best endeavours to convince you, that with the reinforcement to our dining party with which you honour us, you will not endanger us the loss of our table cloth." Mrs. Adderley retired to order some few additional dishes to her dinner, and the Earl, with great gaiety, resumed his seat and his conversation with 'Squire Quicksett. "And so, my Lord," said the 'Squire, giving the Earl a hearty shake by the hand, which the Earl as heartily returned; "and, so, I hear, your
Lordship,

Lordship, Lady Gretton, and Sir Gregory, have fairly cut Dungarvon out of his feathers—never was better pleased in my life—never was that impudent Scot, since he first crossed the Tweede, so completely foiled; he had made himself sure, at least, of one of you—perhaps, of the Lady:—he had, in his early days, I suppose, read of the devil's temptations of our first mother, Eve; and, like the devil, he made his advances to Lady Gretton, with the offer of an apple with a gilded coronet upon the top of it:—and, for each of you to throw the apple scornfully in his face—by the Lord Harry it was noble!—For once, in his life, they say, the Scotchman blushed; and his master, the minister, bit his lips till they bled again. I should have chuckled to have seen their meeting after the Somerset given them by our charming friend, Lady Gretton."

"Dungarvon," said his Lordship, "judges of all the world by himself; he knows the thorough corruption of his own heart, and thence, he supposes, that

none can resist, if they are properly tempted. For myself, he took for granted, that my conversion was the mere result of disease, and low spirits.—Astounded to find in me a steadiness he was ill prepared to expect, he retired, mortified—but still determined to persist in his plan of ministerial temptation. Of me, himself and his haughty employer had known, God knows, too much; they might, therefore, entertain hopes of success; but, it is plain, they knew little of the steady virtue of Lady Gretton, and our friend, the Baronet, or they might have spared themselves the pain and vexation of a three-fold defeat.”

And yet, I understand, Dungarvon affects to carry it all off, by the means of one of his broadest Scottish laughs; saying, that we were all three of us born of the wrong side of Berwick-bridge, or we should have known better than to have thus quarrelled with our bread and butter.—We have this intelligence by the favour of Lady Gretton, who does my sister the honour to correspond with her.”

But,

“ But, *apropôs*, my good friends, (for you will now, I hope, permit me so to style you) I have a further mortification in reserve for the minister, and his corrupt partisans; it is a plan, in which, I hope, to be favoured with your concurrence. I am sufficiently recovered to attend the assizes: I mean to have the honour of appearing in the train of our very respectable high sheriff: I am in your judgment, but it has struck me, that, as the minister intended to traverse your design of starting Sir Gregory for the county, by appointing him sheriff, we ought to accompany our friend to the county-town, in full procession; if it meets your approbation, as Sir Gregory has placed me in the flattering situation of foreman of the grand jury, in order to put the sincerity of my conversion out of all possible doubt, I am at your service to head the anti-ministerial cavalcade.”

’Squire Quicksett sprung from his chair in a kind of ecstacy, crying, “ By my soul, my Lord, patriotism has made an

orator of you! Many an idle word have I heard spoken in that same house, where, for so many years, your Lordship gave a single Aye or No as the minister dictated; but, though you have now said more words than I ever supposed you, (you will pardon me) capable of saying, they are every one to the purpose—not an idle word amongst them.”

“ Body-ô-me! my Lord, we'll all attend, and your Lordship shall lead us: I have just now laid down my fox hounds, because I had a better regard to the honest farmer's pigs and poultry than to my own diversion. Instead of being destroyed, or even lessened in their number, by means of my hunting of them, the plaguy toads ^{the Frogs} increased upon the country; I have, therefore, sold off my fox hounds, it will be a saving of five hundred pounds a year: I can well afford a new coach upon the occasion—a new coach by the mass will I have! Musgrave, if he will, and myself, will hanſelit in your Lordship's train, in honour of our sheriff—we'll go like ourselves;

selves; my whipper-in, who is a light weight, shall be turned into postillion, and, for once in my life, I'll figure away with six nag-tailed bays to the assizes."

As might be imagined, there was not a dissentient voice to Lord W——'s proposal. It was agreed, that the whole body of Sir Gregory's friends should breakfast together at Summerfield Castle on the morning on which the assizes were to commence, and proceed from thence in grand cavalcade to the county town. "Of the which resolution," said Dr. Summerfield, perceiving his nephew's eyes glisten with pleasure, "you, my dear Edmund, shall, by the next post, make Sir Gregory acquainted." "To which I will add, with your permission, my good Doctor, by way of rewarding our friend Edmund, who, as Mr. Adamson and Mr. Adderley will assure you, applies with unremitting attention to his studies of every kind, he shall order honest Humphry Claggett to bring over to the Grove to-morrow morning Lady Gretton's beagles, and he shall invite this good company

company to take a hunt with him, and a sportsman's dinner at Myrtle Grove after the day's chace. It is your entertainment," continued the Peer, "son Edmund, therefore upon ~~it~~ you ^{it} must rest, that the cook gives our friends a proper regale after their fatigue." Edmund affectionately and respectfully kissed Lord W——'s hand, promising him a willing and thankful obedience.

Mrs. Adderley announced that dinner was served. "It is literally, my Lord," said her husband, "a farmer's meal; we already kill our own Welch mutton—the poultry, Lady Anne, is of my wife's fatting, and the pastry of her own making. The Madeira, which I know is his Lordship's wine, I can promise to be excellent—our father Seldon brought it with him from Jamaica." "To which I will add," said 'Squire Quicksett, as Mr. Adderley was leading Lady Anne to the dining parlour, "as I hear your Ladyship drinks malt liquor, our friend is the best brewer in the country—the rogue has found out the art of drawing as delightful
beer

beer of every kind from his cellar, as he does sounds from the strings of his CREMONA." Lady Anne smiled, telling the 'Squire, that neither Lord W——, nor herself, made the least doubt but they should find every thing the best of its kind at the table of two such known good managers as Mr. and Mrs. Ad-derley.

And so, in truth, they found it.—Their fare was such as even an epicure would have enjoyed. The soup was of Alicia's making, it was well-flavoured, and yet not unwholesomely, and expensively rich. The ham was cured by herself, it was tender, juicy, and not over salt. "And for the turkey," said Mrs. Summerfield, when she helped Lady Anne to a slice of it, "your Ladyship will find it unusually fat and delicate—how the dear chit contrives it I know not, but my turkies are not to compare to her's.—How is it," she continued, "Alicia, you neglect not your music, nor your drawing, and yet you evidently attend to the in and out door œconomy of your house better than any woman

woman in the country." "I will tell you," said Mr. Musgrave, "how Mrs. Adderley manages: ^{by}early rising, and a well-directed attention to all her affairs." Alicia bowed to the compliment paid her by her worthy neighbour.

Both the Peer and his sister did ample credit, as, indeed, did all the company, to Mrs. Adderley's board; for such, her husband said, it really was—he had no hand in it. "But in the cellar you have;" replied 'Squire Quicksett; "that is your department." "In which, indeed," said Lord W——, "you shine: your Madeira and your port are the best I ever tasted." "And so," added Lady Anne, "is Mr. Adderley's table beer and his ale; they are both of them delicious.

In the toasts after dinner, the healths of Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton were drank in bumpers by the gentlemen, nor were Mr. and Mrs. Seldon forgot; they toasted also their worthy friends in Africa; and, at the express desire of the young Edmund, the lovely Eleonora had justice
done

done to her rising charms—a bumper was circulated to the health of Miss Gretton; “To which,” said his tutor, “I will take leave to add—health and success to our friend Musgrave’s sons in India, and the younger one who is just now settled with Mr. Simpson in a new commerce with Senegal.”

After taking their coffee, Lord W—— and his party retired at an early hour, thanking their kind hosts for their very excellent cheer, and receiving their promise of dining the next day at Myrtle Grove.



C H A P. LIV.

IT has been noticed, that almost immediately upon Sir Gregory and his family's coming to reside at Summerfield Castle, he had given general directions to Mr. Hawkesby, the worthy apothecary of the place, to attend upon, and administer medicines to all persons within the two parishes of Summerfield and Hawthorn-Dale, whose circumstances would not conveniently admit of calling in the assistance of the faculty, for the relief of the various disorders which man is heir to. This order of the good Baronet had been punctually and faithfully obeyed by Mr. Hawkesby, and yet his bills for attending the poor had been exceedingly moderate.

It may be also remembered, that this truly charitable apothecary and his wife had formed a resolution upon the arrival of the news of their good fortune in the lottery, as the best return to Providence for

for this signal increase of their substance, to be, in future, more liberal than they had hitherto thought themselves intitled to be, in administering medicine to the maladies of the industrious poor. As one means of being so, they had taken into their family a respectable matron, the widow of the late schoolmaster, who had left her but in distressed circumstances—her principal support had been Dr. Summerfield and his good lady.

With the concurrence and approbation of the Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield, Mr. Hawkesby had undertaken to instruct *Mrs. Sagely*, for that was her name in midwifery, and even some of the branches of pharmacy, for which she had always displayed an extraordinary taste and inclination. It had been, indeed, confined to the vegetable part of the *Materia-Medica*; it now, under our good apothecary's tuition, became more general and extensive. She was already sufficiently skilled in midwifery to be trusted in all common cases; in dangerous ones, Mr. Hawkesby gratuitously afforded her

his assistance. Mrs. Sagely had been likewise taught bleeding and tooth drawing, each of which operations she performed, in her instructor's opinion, better than himself; added to which, he had rendered her expert in most of the ordinary occurrences of surgery.

Mr. Hawkesby had been engaged upon the day when Lord W—— unexpectedly dined with Mr. Adderley, to have been of the party—his wife had brought his excuses—he had been called in to assist Mrs. Sagely in an uncommonly difficult labour—he had attended with success, and had saved both the mother and the child: late in the afternoon he came to drink his wine with his friend Adderley, where he was not a little surprised to meet Lord W——. The Peer, who had heard, with much delight, an account of this benevolent and generous apothecary, had received him very graciously; and, to the entire satisfaction of his sister, Lady Anne, their own apothecary having recently died, desired Mr. Hawkesby to supply his place. The noble

noble Lord had told him, that he was at the present trying the effects of electricity, under the administration of its powers by Mr. Walter Rosemary; that he had received great benefit, but, that he would be glad of his attendance during the time the philosopher was electrifying him, and that he would, with the rest of the company, take his dinner at the Grove, though, he had thus, by asking his attendance in the library, deprived him of the pleasure of making one of Edmund's hunting party, who had all been engaged by the young 'Squire, his Lordship said, to dine with him; Mr. Hawkesby bowed, and promised to wait upon him at the appointed hour, two o'clock, at which hour Lord W—— took his second daily course of electricity.

Lady Anne was sitting with her brother and his electrical doctor in the library, when Mr. Hawkesby was announced. Mr. Rosemary begun his operations, which he conducted to the full approbation of the worthy apothecary. "It has ever," he said, "my Lord, been my

my opinion, that the medical powers of electricity are in no cases so successfully applied as in paralytic affections; and, I am most happy in observing, that your Lordship exhibits one of the most striking instances of its restorative virtues.—You are perfectly, Sir, right,” he added, “in continuing to receive the electric shock, and to have sparks drawn from the parts which the palsy had affected.”

“I would advise your Lordship,” said he, “that you steadily pursue the course you are in, for, at least, another month, and that you occasionally afterwards resume it, observing, to live generously, yet temperately, and to take air and exercise as frequently and regularly as possible.

Lady Anne took the opportunity of Mr. Hawkesby's visit to the Grove, to desire him to administer some medicine proper for dropfical cases to one of the house-maids, whom, her woman had that morning informed her was so swollen with the dropfy, that it was with the
utmost

utmost difficulty she could do the business of the house. Mr. Hawkesby examined his patient, from whom he quickly returned, saying to Lady Anne, with a smile, "that the young woman's dropsy was of that peculiar kind that would soon require the attendance of his assistant, Mrs. Sagely." Her Ladyship readily understood him, and, after paying him some very flattering compliments for having so benevolently enabled Mrs. Sagely to gain a comfortable living by an art, which ought, as much as possible, to be principally the office of women, Lady Anne had the house-maid summoned to her presence in another apartment, in order to learn to whom she imputed her pregnancy, meaning, if it was one of Lord W——'s men servants, to do her best to accomplish a marriage between the parties.

The poor young woman, sensibly touched by the goodness of Lady Anne, readily confessed, with many tears, to what unfortunate attachment she had been indebted for her present situation.

She

She said, William, Lord W——'s groom, had been her lover, and she hoped he would not refuse to make her an honest woman—indeed she did not doubt it, if her good Ladyship and my Lord would take William to talk too upon the subject. William, who was in other respects a good servant, was immediately called to his Lordship, who told him, if he married the young woman, as he presumed was his intention, they should both continue in their places. The groom assured his Lordship, it always had been his intention, that he would have the bands published on the next Sunday, and the affair was settled to the satisfaction of all parties.

After a very fine day's sport upon Lord W——'s ^{manner} ~~manner~~, the company repaired to Mrytle Grove in time to dress for dinner.—“And now, my good friends,” said Lord W——, as he welcomed them with great glee to the Grove, upon their entering the saloon some twenty minutes before dinner;—“And now,” he repeated, cordially shaking each sportsman

sportsman by the hand, "if your cheer is not so good as your day's hunt, you must thank, for the disappointment, my dear boy, Edmund, he has had the whole ordering of the dinner." "My Lord," replied Edmund, "if I am to depend upon the opinion of your Lordship's cook, who has the character of being an excellent one, the entertainment I have ordered is such as, I very much hope, both your Lordship, and our worthy guests, will approve." "May it be so," rejoined Lord W——, "but remember, Edmund, the old saying of the proof of the pudding, &c. I shall judge of your good taste, or the reverse, by the honour our friends do to your repast in the notice, as hunters, they take of it."

The young 'Squire's dinner received the best of all possible proofs of applause by the hearty application made to it by the good company, to both the first and second course; it was, in truth, excellent in all its parts, and the wines were good and abundant. Lord W—— was in the gayest spirits imaginable, rallying, more

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than once, the philosopher of the Dale upon the goodness of his own and the electrifying doctor's appetite. "I impute," said his Lordship, "all to the virtues of the electric fluid; I hope, neither I, nor Mr. Rosemary, may exceed the due bounds of a temperate hilarity—but, if we do, here is our good friend, Hawkesby, to restrain us: he has this morning cured one of my sister's housemaids of a dropfy, and, I am sure, he will take care that his new patient, her brother, incur not the hazard of acquiring one.

When the table cloth was removed, and the bottles and glasses had succeeded to a variety of good and elegant dishes, 'Squire Quicksett took occasion to say, when the Earl toasted, as he constantly did, Sir Gregory, Lady Gretton, and the family; "What think you," said he, "my Lord, as sure, as according to an old saying, the devil's at London, have I a month's mind to expose myself, my dame, and her daughter's to the hazard of his horns and his hoofs, and to take four or five

five weeks of the pleasures of the metropolis—and, i-fackins with me it ever is!—so said, so done. I have wrote to our friend, the Baronet, to take us a snug ready furnished house, as near him as possible, for a month or so. You know I yesterday talked of a new coach—now, said I to my dame, who, by the bye, is all agog for her London journey, who so proper to bespeak this same new coach, and to get rid of the old one, as myself? And, as I don't like to do things by halves, I have a huge mind to hitch the good Doctor, and Mrs. Summerfield into the scheme, and agreeably to surprise the Baronet with a whole troop of his country friends—I say a troop, for I intend to beg a fortnight's furlow for the young 'Squire, and his tutor, Mr. Adamson. You," continued he, "Edmund, will, I dare answer for you, not say nay to a trip to London, if Lord W——, and Lady Anne, for I perceive, you young rogue, you are a favourite with both, can find in their hearts to spare you." The Earl, who perceived 'Squire Quicksett had not settled the full plan of his expedition,

D 2

petition, with a smile, nodded his assent, and the honest 'Squire proceeded.—

“ And here,” he went on, “ is honest Will. Masgrave, I know how he longs to have a peep at his boy, who is placed, by the Baronet, with the Senegal trader. Sir Gregory has, in his usual cordial manner, invited Will. and his rib, and his daughter, to take a month's run of his house in Grovesnor Square—I faith, we mean to make a party, and all to set out together.”

“ And I,” replied Lord W——, “ would make one of the company, and Lady Anne another, but I wish to get, if possible, perfectly sound against the assizes, and, I fear, the bad hours of London might throw me back again; but this, I will venture, in my sister's name, and my own, to promise you, dearly as we both love Edmund, we'll spare him and his tutor to you for the last fortnight of your month; and, I believe, by that time,” continued the Peer, addressing himself to Mr. Adamson, “ the worthy
divine,

divine, whom you have been so good to engage for my chaplain, will be settled in his office."

I think he was expected the next, or the following week. Mr. Adamson told his Lordship, "that he had that day, under cover to himself, at the Grove, received a letter from his friend, assuring him that he would be punctual to his time."

"And so then," resumed the honest 'Squire, "I may consider it a done thing: here, then, filling a bumper of claret, here's a bumper to our next merry meeting. Odds, heartlikins! I'll take a look from the gallery of the House of Commons at the countenances of Dungarvon, and his stately master—curseably chop fallen, both of them, I don't doubt; they may pretend to carry off, the one by a forced horse-laugh, and the other by a forced court-smile. But," added he, "it won't do—confoundly sick both of them—you shall know all about it—I will write, or get Edmund to do it for me, giving

giving your Lordship and Lady Anne a full account how plaguily blued they both are, by your Lordship having thus so decently given them a go-by they so little expected."

The whole company highly enjoyed the 'Squire's pleasantry, and they parted in great spirits, and the most unaffected good humour, and with declaration of reciprocal attachment.



C H A P. LV.

LORD W——, it was observed in his own family, and, indeed, by all who approached him, from the time that he had become intimately connected with our good Baronet of the castle, had exerted himself to the very utmost, as the best means of cementing their union to endeavour somewhat to imitate Sir Gregory's virtues. He had remarked the very gracious manner in which Sir Gregory constantly spoke to his domestics: his Lordship closely followed the amiable example of his friend, and of a man who was the friend of mankind in general. He no longer gave his orders to his servants in the imperious manner in which they had been long accustomed to receive them: his commands were rather now conveyed under the more engaging form of a request. His household had just cause to bless the moment that brought their Lord acquainted with Sir Gregory Gretton.

The

The Peer had been informed how highly stood honest Humphry Claggett, the huntsman of the Summerfield beagles, in the favour both of the Baronet and Lady Gretton. He had, therefore, desired Edmund to be sure to take care that Humphry should be well entertained after the day's sport; that he should dine at the Grove, and Jerry, the whipper-in, take her Ladyship's hounds home to their kennel. This invitation of honest Humphry both the young 'Squire and himself had taken very kindly. His Lordship had, moreover, which, if possible, Humphry took in still better part than being bid stay to dine at the Grove, summoned him, by a gracious message delivered to him by the noble Lord's gentleman, to the library, while the sportsmen were under the hands of their servants dressing for dinner.

“And so,” said his Lordship, as Claggett entered the library, which he had done under the cover of one of his best bows, “and so,” said his Lordship, “I understand, Humphry, and it gives me almost
as

as much pleasure as it does you, and your brother sportsmen, that you have had to day several fine chaces." "Capital, my Lord, capital, I assure you; upon your Lordship's manor there are hares enough, and not too many—for too many are as bad as too few. My Lady's beagles performed, as they always do, to the satisfaction of the whole field." "I wonder not at it," replied Lord W——, "for I hear, Humphry, that you are one of the best and fairest huntsmen that ever hunted a pack of hare-hounds." "Tolerable, tolerable, an please your Lordship," rejoined Humphry, "but the beagles are so staunch, my Lord, and our young 'Squire, I think, knows as much of hunting as myself; and, he rides, considering his age, as fairly and boldly as 'Squire Quicksett himself.—Why, now, this blessed day, he took a flying leap, ^{over} a high staked hedge and double ditch, that the fox hunter stopped at—God bless him, for he is as good a young gentleman as ever the sun shone upon—he cleared it sure enough; but I sometimes thinks he is too venturesome, and so thinks my

good master, Adderley, who himself rides like any hero; and he always sticks close to the young 'Squire, for fear of an accident, for he loves him dearly, and so we do all, both rich and poor—a fine man he will make for certain, and we all pray for his life, and for your Lordship's too, though we understand, as how, young master's to be your Lordships heir, as a man may say."

"And you may say it, honest Humphry, and truly say it;" continued his Lordship: "I love my young kinsman as well as the best of you; and, as a proof of it, I must beg of you, Mr. Claggett, to take it in charge from me to counsel my son Edmund, for such I consider him, not to take such desperate leaps: were any fatal accident to happen from it, it would go near to break my heart, and the hearts of his uncle and aunt, Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, and, indeed, all who know my dear boy." The tears came into the eyes of honest Humphry, at hearing his Lordship thus express himself, and it had nearly produced

duced a similar effect upon Lord W—— and Lady Anne. His Lordship, therefore, finished the audience, by dismissing Humphry, and consigning him to the care of the butler and house-keeper, under a strict charge to each to make him heartily welcome.

Indeed it was but literally true what the well-natured huntsman, in the fullness of his heart, had affirmed to Lord W——. Our young Edmund grew daily into every one's affection. He was the exact pattern of Sir Gregory, and his worthy uncle, in a beneficent attention to, and commiseration of the poor: like them he was gracious and affable to persons of all ranks and conditions: he was unusually manly and courageous for his years: a scholar beyond what could have been expected at his age; expert in all his exercises; he already fenced well, and danced gracefully; his proficiency in drawing and music was such, also, as to give Mr. Adderley entire satisfaction. "And for geography and arithmetic, I will match him," would Walter Rosemary

declare, with his wonted emphatical rubbing of his hands, "I will match Master Edmund against any youth, three years his senior, in either England or even France, where, as I have heard, the young folks are better geographers than they are with us." "But what crowns it all, Mr. Rosemary," taking up a subject which ever gave him delight, "what crowns it all, friend Rosemary," would Mr. Adamson say, "Edmund is a boy of the strictest honour and integrity, and does his duty faithfully to God as well as man." "To which we will, if you please, add," said Lady Anne, who had been present, and had appeared attentive solely to the ruffle she was working, while this conversation was going on, "we will add, that Edmund is just and graceful in his person—his light brown locks hang in natural ringlets upon his shoulders, overshadowing a face too beautiful for one of his sex—in one word, Edmund has the most ingenuous air and deportment I ever beheld, and a countenance matured with the most unaffected good sense and good humour."

"And

“And can I, then, think you,” exclaimed the Peer, who was taking his morning’s course of electricity, and had listened in silent pleasure to their discourse, “can I, then, think you, bear with patience the idea of parting with this dear boy, who, each day he lives, entwines himself more closely about my heart—but part with him, I will, for the proposed London journey. It is to be, you remember, Mr. Adamson, a *sejoûr*, with Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, of a fortnight; and when you return, I shall endeavour to settle a convention with our friend, Dr. Summerfield, that Edmund and yourself divide your time between the parsonage and Myrtle Grove. Your friend, Mr. Bridgeman, will, I presume, have no objection to the plan. The variety may not be disagreeable to him, as, I hope, it will not to you, to take the duties of chaplain and curate alternately—but we will change the subject, for I see Edmund returning from the morning’s walk I desired him to take, to visit one of Lady Anne’s pensioners.

C H A P. LVI.

SO said, so done, had been the expression of our man of rustic pleasantry, 'Squire Quicksett, when he determined upon his journey to London. He had acted agreeably to his rule, he had already received advice from his friend, Sir Gregory, that the snug house he had desired, was hired for him—it was in Charles Street, Berkley Square. Letters had also been received at Summerfield Parsonage, and at his Grove Farm, that Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, with friendly impatience, expected their visit. “Did not I tell you so, did not I tell you so;” repeated the honest 'Squire. “Come, come,” says he, “Mrs. Summerfield, I shall give you and the Doctor, and I have told Will. Musgrave and his helpmate the same, I shall give you both but two days to get ready your caps, your bonnets, and your other fal-lals—and then, away we go: I can tell you, my dame and daughters have got every thing, they say, in
prime

prime order, and are upon the wing for Berkley Square. On Friday evening I have promised to beat up the Baronet's quarters, and I know you won't make me break my word."

Off then they set, and this was the arrangement, Mrs. Quicksett, her two daughters, and Miss Musgrave, in the 'Squire's coach, himself upon the box driving four horses in hand; the Doctor, and his lady, and Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave in their post chaises; the 'Squire's and the Doctor's servants on horseback.

"And I shan't drive away from you," exclaimed the honest 'Squire, upon their meeting at Hawthorn-Dale, where the three roads that led to their respective habitations crossed each other; "I shan't drive away from you, never fear, though you have only two, and I have four horses; to tell you the truth, I love my horses too well to over-drive them, which is my reason for so often driving myself; I never hurry upon the road, any more than our friend, Gretton—a merciful man,

man, faith Solomon, is merciful to his beast—so say I.

And a pleasant journey they had; they made easy stages, and they got into town before the close of day on Friday, arriving without accident, (though more than one of the London whips ineffectually endeavoured to dismount the 'Squire) at Sir Gregory's house in Grovesnor Square, between the hours of four and five. "We have taken," said the 'Squire, as he entered the dining parlour, "a snap upon the road; but, as I perceive, you have not dined, good folks, I have a snug corner reserved, like the house Sir Gregory has got for me, a snug corner, and so I believe we have all," looking archly about him for the Baronet's good cheer. "Never fear, my turtle," he added to Mrs. Quicksett, whom he had observed to look rather surprised when their coach drove off, "never fear, the ^{Baronet's} Squire's own carriage will, I am sure, be at our service, to convey us, at a proper hour, to Charles Street."

It

It need scarcely be added, that they were received with friendly joy; they were above the rank of acquaintances—they were dear and cordial friends.

The honest 'Squire was as good as his word—he did justice to the Baronet's ^{dinner} ~~title~~; observing to Lady Gretton, "that he perceived, they went not into the London fashion: your Ladyship's hospitality is not like that of some fine folks I have been acquainted with, they would entertain their friends plentifully at their country houses, but it was a plaguy hard matter to get a dinner of any sort from them at their town houses. I knew not, till I tried him, how far Gretton might have been spirited by keeping London company, but I find, to my great joy, he is the same honest true hearted fellow in Grovesnor Square that we always found him at Summerfield Castle." And, it did not escape me, I considered it as a good omen, his horns and clarionetts sounded the signal for dinner, as they used to do in the country. "Right," said I to myself, "right, Baronet; give these flashy milk

and water poor souls, a good blast ; put 'em in mind that a good table is somewhat more creditable than a number of wax lights, and two or three hundred fops and foppeßes seated at a quarter part of the same number of card tables."

" Bravissimo !" said Lady Gretton ; " I remark, with infinite satisfaction, that our good friend has neither left his pleasantry, nor his good appetite behind him. My dear Sir Gregory lives in London as he does in the country, his table is always open for the reception of his friends."

" Which," says Sir Gregory, " puts me in mind, to intimate to Mrs. Quicksett, and the young ladies, that I hope they will consider the small house I have hired for them merely as destined to the business of the toilet, and to take the refreshment of sleep after the diversions of the day ; and, that they will regard mine as their hotel, where constantly, at between four and five o'clock, they will find the same tolerable ordinary they do at present. They will do me the favour to believe, that I make them this request,
as

as well from the pleasure my wife and myself shall always receive from their society, as to save Mrs. Quicksett the trouble of providing for her table, as I know she has not encumbered herself with very many servants." Mrs. Quicksett thanked the Baronet for his invitation; each of the young ladies, almost together, crying out, "Pray, Mamma, accept it, for you know, we shall be so much taken up, that we shall have no time for marketting, or going into the larder.

Mrs. Quicksett, as may be naturally supposed, was, from her long residence in the country, a plain country gentlewoman—she was one of the old fashion. Though she had brought her husband a large fortune, and his own landed estates was very ample, she was, in fact, her own house-keeper—she looked to every thing herself, or, to use her own expression, "was herself at the head and tail of all her household affairs."

She had, in much the same manner as she had been herself trained, brought up her two daughters ; the eldest of whom had been christened Margery, after a maiden aunt, the sister of the 'Squire, who had left her a fortune of 10,000*l.* and the youngest, who was something turned of eighteen, had received the name of Alice, which had been the name of her maternal grandmother, who had, in like manner, by her will left the young lady an independent fortune of half the value of her sister's.

The two young ladies had received a common boarding school education, from whence they had returned at the age of fifteen and sixteen. They had been much flattered by the governess, and her French teacher, on account of their imputed fortunes, and very large expectancies : they had been considered as great heiresses, and had, therefore, been more indulged than any of the Misses in the school ; the consequence was, they had learned but little, and their morals had acquired still less

less benefit than had their manners: they were complete hoyden's, but not ill-natured: they had been taught the hunting ^{taste} ~~scout~~ by their father, had been used to accompany him in the fox-chace, and, had conceived so despicable an opinion of hare hunting, which they termed cat hunting, that they could never be persuaded to go out with Lady Gretton's beagles—they said it would be time enough to take to cat hunting when they should themselves become tabbies, or grey headed old maiden pusses.

Such were the ladies who were now arrived in town to enjoy its diversions, and to learn its fashions. It was to them a new school, and we shall say in what manner they profited by its instructions. We will, for the present, dismiss them to their repose, to which they retired, by means of Lady Gretton's coach, early in the evening, each of them richer, to the amount of an hundred guineas, with which the honest 'Squire had, by way of a bon-repast, presented them, to lay out as they might think proper,

Though

Though Lady Gretton was too well-bred, and had too much good-nature to say as much, yet her eyes so evidently spoke her satisfaction, (when these female fox-hunters took their leave) at the circumstance that they were not to be constantly resident with her, that Sir Gregory and Mr. Seldon both took notice of it.—“I am sure,” said the latter, “your Ladyship is, in your heart, not sorry that these young tom-boys lodge in Berkley, rather than in Grovesnor Square.” “I am satisfied she is,” observed Sir Gregory, “for I have long known, that nothing is more disagreeable to my wife, as, in truth, it is to myself, than a masculine woman; I know not, whether it be not, to the full, as odious as an effeminate man.

Our friend, Miss Musgrave, taking her hand, I am persuaded thinks the same as we do of these romps, though she says nothing.”—“Miss Musgrave,” remarked Mrs. Richards, “if she will permit me to answer for her, is much too properly feminine to be pleased with two such boisterous young women as the Miss Quick-

Quicksetts." "She must endeavour to soften them," said Mrs. Seldon, "by her own amiable manners and example."

"These madcaps, and their 'Squirely mother, will, I understand," continued the Baronet, "be scampering half over the town, to-morrow morning, a shopping, as it is called; we shall see nothing of them till dinner time." "Of that you may assure yourself," said Lady Gretton, "for my mantua-maker and milliner are appointed to attend their levee at two, and a French hair-dresser at three, in order, to use their own phrase, that they may appear, as soon as possible, like the wife and daughters of somebody."

The Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield shook their heads and smiled: they had, in fact, augured but ill of this London journey. "I wish," said the latter, "that our honest friend don't repent this expedition: his two daughters are both self-willed ^{wicked} enough of all conscience, and they rest a great deal too much upon their independent fortunes."—"The 'Squire,"

"Squire," observed the Doctor, "will be lucky if he keeps them out of harm's way; we must, however, hope for the best."

"But, apropos," resumed Lady Gretton, "how did you leave our dear Edmund, my good Doctor; how looked he at being left behind?" "Madam," said he, "our nephew is of so good a disposition, that he readily conforms to all our arrangements; but, I can assure your Ladyship, he would, if it were in his power, give wings to the intervening hours between the day of our departure and that on which the Peer and Lady Anne have consented to part with him for the allotted fortnight. He charged me, to say for him every thing respectful to your Ladyship, and Sir Gregory; and, something he added, I believe it was—his affectionate compliments to Miss Gretton."

"Bravo!" exclaimed Sir Gregory; "and now," he added, "friend, Musgrave, I am to tell you, that I am to-morrow

row

row to introduce to you a very promising young merchant, a certain Mr. Nathaniel Musgrave: his master and himself are engaged to dine with us to-morrow; but, as I know Mrs. Musgrave, and yourself, are impatient to see him, I have some business in the city, and we will, therefore, if you please, surprise our young clerk at his desk in Threadneedle Street. As to Charlotte, she will have the goodness to wait for the joyful interview with her brother, till the hour of dinner, as, I fancy, Lady Gretton will have some employment for her, pretty much of the same kind as is to engage so much of the attention of Mrs. Quicksett and her fair daughters." Mr. Devayne, as usual, in the absence of Mr. Adamson, read prayers to the family, and they retired, severally, to their repose.



C H A P. LVII.

IT is almost needless to observe that 'Squire Quicksett was an early riser; the reader will naturally suppose it: he was stirring long before any of the family, except his own man, Solomon. The 'Squire had given him this name, because he said he had infinitely more sagacity than any servant he had ever retained in his family; in particular, perhaps, because he had a sufficiency of mother-wit to make him see, that it was his interest exactly to conform to all his master's habits. Solomon was, therefore, up considerably before day light, had lighted the fire in the back parlour, appropriated to his master for a dressing-room, had brushed his clothes, hung his shirt to the fire, and set the shaving apparatus in order for him to use, as his custom was, as soon as he arose: he was in the habit of never suffering his beard to exceed the age of a single day, saying, frequently, "as I dress almost as plain, yet I love
to

to be, in every respect also, as neat and clean as a Quaker."

And here it may not, it is possible, be amiss, to give a slight sketch of Mr. Quicksett's person and habiliments: the 'Squire was in stature about six feet, his form was athletic, and his face manly; he was naturally of a ruddy complexion, to which, the being almost constantly in the air, the various weather of this changeable climate had given something of a gipsy tinge: he wore his hair, which curled naturally, short in his neck; it had originally been a dark chestnut, but, being now of the wrong side of fifty, it was becoming grey—but he was not bald; he had never varied the cock of his hat, which was of the finest beaver, for the last twenty years; nor, very little, the cut of his clothes, which were of superfine cloth of a dusky brown, the coat, waistcoat, and breeches, except when he wore leather, of the same uniform colour, and with no other ornament than a set of plain solid silver buttons, which his

man Solomon cleaned, as he did the other plate of the family, they were, therefore, always bright, as were his gold shoe buckles, which were of some thirty years standing—they had belonged to his father, and had descended to him, like his estate, by inheritance: his stockings were, in winter, very fine light grey worsted, in summer, white cotton: the fashion of his shoes he never altered, they were high-quartered, of the kind called channelled pumps, which Solomon took care to keep curiously japanned. It should be noticed, that the 'Squire's linen was always of the finest Irish; about his neck he wore a muslin cravat; and, at his wrists, short cambric ruffles, which Mrs. Quicksett always plaited for her husband with her own hands, as she did likewise the shirt bosom.

Such was the plain honest country gentleman, who broke from his slumbers at his usual hour of seven, and descended into his dressing parlour, where his faithful Solomon was ready to receive him.

Solomon

Solomon was some two years younger than his master; in his boyish age he had attended him to the University, and from the time he had become possessed of his estate, he had lived with the 'Squire, in quality of his butler. He was likewise useful to him in his justice business in the capacity of clerk; he drew all his warrants; he brewed the 'Squire's october; somewhat superintended his household as house-steward; but what had highly endeared Solomon to his master, was, that he had rode through many a hard fox-chace with him, was of an unimpeachable integrity, of singular good humour, and, though he knew himself a favourite with the whole family, was never above setting his hand to any thing for the service of his master or his friends.

One of the offices of this trusty domestic was, to prepare the 'Squire's breakfast—it consisted of a half pint of milk, an equal quantity of warm water, with a table spoonful of rum, it was sweetened with honey, and well spiced with ginger, and mace being always boiled in the water.

water. Solomon had made ready the table, either for the purpose of shaving, or breakfast, and the dry toast was daily placed before the fire, this, spread thinly with butter, being all our 'Squire ate at his first meal.

"Thank you, thank you," repeated the 'Squire, "my good Solomon, for being thus alert. Now, I warrant me, you and I are the only two persons up in the whole street; I believe, I might say, the whole square."

"For matter of that," quoth Solomon, "early rising is very little known amongst these same Londoners. The maid of the house made no bones of telling me last night, when I told her master and I arose betimes. 'I suppose,' says she, 'betimes, you mean nine in the morning, and an early hour it is for gentle-folks; for my own part, I thinks, as I does pretty well if I am up and stirring about these winter mornings by eight o'clock.' I blessed myself, and said inwardly, God bless this town! what it will come to, and what will

will it all end in? They now dine, as a body may say, at an hour when we country folks used, in former times, as I have heard, to be going to supper; they sup when they should be going to bed, and they go to bed when they should be thinking of getting up; they turn night into day, and day into night, as a man may say."

"But so don't we, Solomon," put in the Squire, "so give me my things to dress; I will then take my breakfast, and be off. You must attend your ladies upon their rambles; remember you have them in charge, and take care, Solomon, that you give a good account of them; they know nothing of the town, and you, indeed, not a main deal, for I think it is much about ten years since we, that is, you and I, Solomon, were in town together. I am going, do you see, to Sir Gregory's coach-maker, my own having died since he built me my last new coach. I have a mind to have a smart affair, a landau I think, to attend our worthy sheriff. Let me

me see, Hatchet, I think is the name, in Long Acre; from thence I shall slip away to the Bank, and afterwards, if I have time, take a turn in St. James's Park, where, if my wife and daughters have finished their shopping, they may, it is likely, find me, and give me a cast home. Come, Solomon, give me my odds and ends, I'll then take a hasty breakfast, and set me out upon my travels—I am upon the wing to be gone—but, be sure, do you have an eye, a hawk's eye one had need to have in this same town of London, that your ladies get not into harm; away, and let me have a good account of your proceedings; one can't be too cautious, Solomon—that is, too much upon our guard to prevent mishap."

The 'Squire, by the help of Solomon, was dressed with great expedition. He swallowed down his breakfast, and fal-
lied forth upon his affairs much about the time the maid of the house had got her kitchen in order for the several breakfasts of the family, and had made ready
the

the dining room for the reception of the ladies as soon as they should quit their respective dressing rooms.

The morning business of the toilet was soon dispatched; the coach was ordered at eleven o'clock, for both mother and daughters were as much upon the wing to set about the arrangement of their affairs, yes, their new dresses, as the 'Squire could be to expedite the adjustment of his town business; it was with high glee that the mother and her daughters set out to expend a part of the money the 'Squire had presented them with, in the enjoyment of which we will leave them, for the present, to adjourn to the habitation of ladies of somewhat more rationality—the house of our good Baronet in Grovesnor-Square.



C H A P. LVIII.

IT was the practice of Sir Gregory's family, in London as in the country, to begin the day with the exercise of family devotion, for this purpose the whole household assembled in the Baronet's library. Mr. Devayne recited a short prayer; they then, according to their relative situations, sat down to breakfast. The Baronet's breakfast party now consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Seldon; the Doctor, and Mrs. Summerfield; the Musgraves; Mrs. Richards, and her pupil, the lovely Eleonora; Mr. Devayne; and, though last mentioned, the first in our regard, the amiable Lady of the mansion, the excellent Lady Gretton.

“And pray, Madam,” said the little Eleonora, addressing herself to Mrs. Summerfield, “when did you say we might expect to see Edmund?” “In about a fortnight, my dear,” replied Mrs. Summerfield, “if Lord W—— and Lady Anne

Anne repent not of their promise to give up to us his tutor and himself at that time." "And I hope you don't think, dear Mrs. Summerfield, that they will repent? but, if they do, you know," continued the lovely child, "they can't break their word, that would be naughty, and Lady Anne, and her brother too, are too good to do any thing naughty or dishonourable."—"Assure yourself, my child," said Lady Gretton, "his Lordship and his sister will keep their word with respect to Edmund, and cheerfully keep it; at the time appointed, you need not fear but we shall see him and his tutor."

"Allôns!" cheerily exclaimed Sir Gregory, "I last night promised our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave, to attend them into the city, on a visit to honest Simpson, and his clerk; Seldon will, perhaps, accompany us, we shall borrow his coach; Dr. Summerfield's will take the ladies, who have, I know, sufficient employment for their morning excursion, and, perhaps, before they return home, they will have the goodness to give a call upon our

aunt in St. James's Square : their rout was settled in an instant, and the carriages at the door.

It may be remembered, when 'Squire Quicksett sallied forth from his house in Charles Street, the first object of his day's pursuit was, to exchange away his old, and to settle the balance which might be demanded of him for the purchase of a new equipage ; with this view, and with hasty steps, he strode away to the residence of Sir Gregory's coach-maker : he had the good fortune to find the master of the shop, the celebrated Mr. Hatchet, at home. "Am I right? am I right?" accosting Mr. Hatchet, said the 'Squire ; "Are you coach-maker to my friend, Sir Gregory Gretton?" "I have that honour," replied the coach-maker. "Why, then," returned the 'Squire, "you shall have the honour of equipping me with a new coach, or rather a new landau, if we can agree upon the matter. But, do you see, you must take the coach I have at present, it is only four years old, and has not been hugely worn—you must allow me

me handsome for it." "Neither you, Sir, nor that worthy gentleman, Sir Gregory Gretton, shall have reason to complain," replied Mr. Hatchet. "Why, then," said the 'Squire, "tell me, hast got a landau? or cou'dst get one ready for me within this fortnight? I shall want new plated harness for six horses. You shall be at a word with me; I don't mean to be set down in your books, you will be paid down upon the nail; my way of dealing is, there's one, and here's t'other; if we are likely to trade, speak."

"By great good luck," answered Mr. Hatchet, "I am able to speak to the purpose. I believe, Sir, I have a landau nearly finished; it was made for an unfortunate gentleman who, the other day, shot himself; and, I think, it may probably, Sir, suit you; if you please I will shew it you."

The 'Squire surveyed it with that kind of critical eye with which a real connoisseur views a fine picture; and, after having silently examined it with great attention,

tention, cried out, "on my life, believe it will do! never saw a better piece of coach-work in my days: name your price—you know, you are to be at a word—money down is the word with me." "I perceive, Sir," said Mr. Hatchet, "you are a judge of carriages; I love to deal with a gentleman that is so." "Ought to be so, by the mass, Master Hatchet," returned the 'Squire; "have been a married man a many years, and have drove my own coach, four horses in hand, ever since: when I was single I only kept fox hounds, I had no call for such sort of things. Well, and so you take my coach, and I take the landau; where's to be the difference?" "Sir," said Mr. Hatchet, "I must have one hundred and fifty guineas for the landau and harness; and, you may be assured, I will allow you for your coach the utmost that it is worth." "Agreed," returned the 'Squire, "for I make it a rule never to affront an honest tradesman by asking any abatement, nor myself by seeming to want one—but, hey-day, how is this? why here's a new coach with the arms of Dr. Summerfield!

How

How fly the Doctor is, never knew that he thought of one."

"Sir," replied Mr. Hatchet, "all that I know of the matter is, that my most excellent customer, Sir Gregory Gretton, ordered it: when he returned from the country he brought me the arms, directing me to have them placed upon a new coach, for a gentleman whom he said was his very particular friend."—"Odds heartlikins!" returned the 'Squire; "I smoke the business: the Baronet is for ever doing these sort of things—he means to make the Doctor a present of it, hey? If Gretton had been an Alexander the Great, he would have given away kingdoms and principalities with the same ease that he gives away coaches, post-chaises, and the Lord knows what besides." "I believe he would," making a bow, said the coach-maker, "for a more generous man never was born." "But, harkee, Master Hatchet," added the honest 'Squire, as he was leaving the shop, "I think, you said, the gentleman for whom the landau was designed shot himself:—
these

these same fashionable sparks are plaguily given to that business—he gamed high, I warrant me.” “He did so,” answered the coach-maker. “Why, look you there, now—only I recollect the spark never rode in it, or, i-fackins, I’d have had nothing to do with the landau.—I’m a main good hand at bringing down a partridge or a pheasant; but I never had the least taste for levelling a pistol at my own head: and, d’ye see, I’ve no mind to turn gambler at my time of life, and, I would not venture even to ride in a carriage that had been used to carry a gamester to his nightly haunts, for fear of myself catching the distemper of deep gaming.—You won’t forget to call to look at my coach, and to take the arms, and so, I wish you a good morning, Master Hatchet.”



C H A P. LIX.

FROM Long Acre the 'Squire had posted away to the Bank, where he received 400*l.* which was a dividend due upon his Lady's fortune, which was in Bank stock. This sum was paid him in Bank notes, which he carefully deposited in a small red morocco pocket-book. He then stepped into the Rainbow Coffee-house, where he took a cup of coffee, and read the papers of the day; after which, he marched away for St. James's Park.

The Park was remarkably crouded, infomuch, that it was some time before our honest 'Squire could distinguish those he was in quest of—his wife and daughters: he at last discovered them, by seeing the trusty Solomon close behind them. They were not a little glad to meet the 'Squire, as they had found it rather awkward the having no gentleman. The 'Squire had joined them but a few

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minutes, when taking out his pocket-handkerchief, he drew forth with it, unperceived by himself, or either of the ladies, his red morocco pocket book, containing his Bank notes; it fell upon the ground: a young ensign of the guards, who was then upon duty, and of course in his full regimentals, was walking close behind the 'Squire—he perceived the pocket-book fall, he picked it up, and presented it to the owner, saying, "I more than believe, Sir, this belongs to you, for I saw it fall, upon your taking out your handkerchief." "Odds, my life!" said the 'Squire, "and so it does, Captain, I am mainly obliged to you;" depositing the little pocket-book, with somewhat more care than before, in his waistcoat pocket: "as sure as a gun, Captain, but for your being so near me, I might have made a dainty morning's business of it—Bank notes to the tune of 400l. is no trifling matter.—I thank you heartily, Captain, and should be glad to crack a bottle with you." The young officer bowed, and joined the party, to the no small satisfaction of the ladies, who were

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not a little glad to have so fine a beau walking with them. "It makes amends" whispered one sister to the other, "for the uncouth figure of our father."

The young officer, whose name was Wingfield, in a moment discerned that it was a country family, and most probably, from the circumstance of the pocket-book, of considerable fortune, just imported from the family mansion. He determined to make his advantages of the adventure. He addressed the mother and daughters with great politeness, but omitted not to be particularly attentive to the 'Squire: they were all highly delighted with him.

After two or three times traversing the Mall, they parted, the 'Squire giving the young Ensign a hearty shake of the hand, telling him, that his name was Quicksett, that he lived in Charles Street, Berkley Square, and should be glad of his company to breakfast the next morning at ten o'clock with the ladies. "When, I dare say, I shall be able to ask you to

dinner at my friend Gretton's, where we have engaged to dine, during our stay in town, having left our cook in the country.—And, I beg," added the 'Squire, " Captain, that you won't forget." " We beg the same, Captain," all in a breath, rejoined the ladies. The young Ensign bowed, and promised to attend their breakfast table.

They were no sooner seated in the coach, than the ladies opened upon the honest 'Squire all together. They spoke with rapture of their new acquaintance; mentioned what purchases they had made, saying, " they had saved Lady Gretton's mantua-maker the trouble of calling upon them, that they had been at her house, and given their orders; that they had passed an hour at her Ladyship's milliners, where they luckily dropped upon a famous friseur, who was cutting and dressing one of the young ladies belonging to the shop: nothing was ever so fortunate, we got our hair cut and dressed, or we could not have spent so much time with that very gallant and well-bred gentleman

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we met in the Park." "A handsomer, better spoken man," said Mrs. Quicksett, "I never came near." "And honest as the fun, or he might have kept Papa's pocket-book," exclaimed Miss Margery, "with all the Bank-bills in it." "For no soul saw him pick it up," observed the younger sister. The coachman was ordered not to put up his horses. They were soon dressed, that is, the ladies; for the Squire made a point of never dressing more than once, except when he had been shooting or hunting, saying, "once a day was enough of all conscience for a plain man like himself." Their coach drove up to the Baronet's door just as the horns and clarionets were sounding the first summons to dinner.



C H A P. LX.

THE morning might justly be said to have been well spent by Sir Gregory, and those under the protection of his friendly roof. Himself, Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave had agreeably surprised the worthy Senegal-trader, and his young clerk, with a visit in Threadneedle-Street. After transacting some other business at the East India House, and at his bankers, Sir Gregory and his company had returned home to dress, not omitting to remind Mrs. Simpson, and the young Musgrave, that they expected them to dinner. Lady Gretton and Mrs. Seldon had been at their mercers, where they had each begged their young friends acceptance of a very handsome dress; they had afterwards visited the venerable Mrs. Williamson, whom, as they found the old lady in most excellent health and spirits, (her years considered) they had persuaded to accompany them home. She too had made Miss Musgrave, whom she greatly esteemed,

esteemed, some very handsome presents, in the way of articles of dress, in order, that this amiable young woman might make as genteel an appearance as the two young hoyden Quicksetts, without putting her respectable parents to any additional expence whatsoever.

Mrs. Quicksett, and her daughters, when they sat down to table, could scarcely talk of any thing but the handsome Captain they had met in the Park, and with whom they had made acquaintance. "Body-ô-me!" said the 'Squire, "but he's a very honest fellow: I as certainly believe, as eggs are eggs, that I am this morning indebted to him for the saving of me 400l. As sure as a gun," he added, "Lady Gretton, like a booby as I was, I had put my pocket-book in the same pocket with my handkerchief, and out I flirited it, and it fell upon the ground, where it might have remained for any thing that we saw of it, till some rascal had picked it up, who would have been hanged before he would have given it me again."

again. But this young gentleman, a Mr. Wingfield I think is his name, saw it drop, and was kind enough to return it me. I-fackins! I was so pleased with my spark, that I had a main good mind to have brought him home to dinner; and, had the affair happened in the country, instead of in London, so I should: but, upon recollection, I believe the young gentleman was upon guard, and could not have accepted my invitation; and, besides, I did not chuse to take such a liberty with Lady Gretton's table, as to ask an entire stranger, as one may say, to sit down to it."

Her Ladyship interrupted the 'Squire, in order to beg of him, "that in future, while he continued in town, he would never be so ceremonious." "Spoke like yourself, my Lady," returned the honest 'Squire; "and, to convince you, that I don't doubt your sincerity, my spark is to call upon us to-morrow morning, and it is great odds but I bring him to Grovesnor Square to dinner with us."

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"By all manner of means," said the Baronet; "I do not know the gentleman, but any friend of Mr. Quicksett's, I shall always be happy to entertain.—You will recollect we are to go to the play to-morrow." "And, I'll answer for the young Captain," very cheerily observed Mrs. Williamson, "he will have no objection to escort thither the young ladies." "To tell you the truth, Madam," rather pertly, said Miss Margery, "I know as much, for he told me so in the Park."

"Though our good Baronet and Lady Gretton had always inconceivable objections to the modern fashion of routs and drums, yet they were no enemies to a sober rubber at whist. To the venerable Mrs. Williamson it was an indulgence. They therefore made a table for her; and, as the honest 'Squire and his family were rather fond of a round game, a party at comettê, which is an improvement upon the old fashioned game of Pope Joan, was made for him and the young folks. The 'Squire, as usual, cut his ~~stakes~~^{notes}, and lost his money, to the

amount of ten or a dozen shillings, with great good humour.

While they were in the height of their play, the modest Mrs. Maxwell was announced, Lady Gretton had not thought it necessary, absolutely to break with her, though they had by no means been so intimate since the interview, through her management brought about, between her Ladyship and Mr. Dungarvon. She rallied the party at the round table for playing at so insipid a game as comettê, and proposed to change it for lottery tickets, or unlimited loo, upon which condition she said she would sit down with them. "Lottery tickets!" rather hastily, said Sir Gregory; "if you please, Mrs. Maxwell, though I do not much approve of any games of mere chance, but the latter game, unlimited loo, I never permit at my house." "Oh, you frightful creature!" exclaimed Mrs. Maxwell; "but come, for once, for the sake of so agreeable a set, I will trifle away my time at lottery tickets." She took her seat between Mrs. Quicksett and her eldest daughter.

daughter : they soon became acquainted. She appeared highly entertained with the 'Squire's pleasantries ; and, on her part, so delighted the females of his family, that they told her of their engagement the next evening, and of the spruce young officer who was to be of the party to the play. Mrs. Maxwell spoke in terms of high encomium of Mr. Wingfield, who, she said, often visited at her house ; promised, that she would, if possible, accompany them to the play ; saying, " that, at all events, she hoped they would favour her with their company at her assembly, which would be the Friday of the ensuing week." Both the mother and daughters readily engaged themselves. The 'Squire, who was also complimented with an invitation, made his excuses, saying, " he had given up dancing (understanding the lady to mean a ball) almost ever since he became a married man." Mrs. and Miss Musgrave, who were also invited, were somewhat reserved in making any engagement without knowing whether or not Lady Gretton approved of it.

When the company broke up, the Squire reminded Sir Gregory, that he might probably bring his new acquaintance, the young officer of the guards, to dinner the next day. The Baronet repeated, "that Mr. Quicksett's friends would ever be welcome to his house,"



C H A P. LXI.

THE young Ensign was punctual to his time; he presented himself, to the great joy of Mrs. Quicksett and her daughters, at the breakfast table, exactly at the hour of ten. This young gentleman, of whom we are now to speak, was a younger son of a gentleman of very ancient family, but whose estate was not so ample as it had been in the days of some of his illustrious progenitors—it was, however, still considerable; but, at the time of his father's marriage, it had been nearly all settled upon the eldest son. The mother's fortune, which had been large, was settled upon younger children. As Mr. Wingfield had several sisters, the utmost he had to expect, at the decease of his father, was the remainder of 5,000*l*. a part of this sum having already been expended in the purchase of a commission in the foot guards. Economy made no part of the virtues of the young Ensign. His pay, and what his father was able to

to allow him, were by no means equal to his expences. He was a young man strongly addicted to the pleasures of a town life, from which gaming had not been excluded; and, though not absolutely a profligate, he had involved himself in difficulties, out of which he wished to extricate himself by any means not positively, or, in the eye of the world, dishonourable. Matrimony he considered as one of those means; and, it was with this view that he had determined to insinuate himself into the good graces of the elder of the Miss Quicksett's, who, as he had been informed by Mrs. Maxwell, whom he had joined in the Park, after he had taken leave of his new acquaintances, was a young lady of an independent fortune, and contingently entitled to a much greater.

Mrs. Maxwell was one of those characters in fashionable life, who was never more happy than when they can, with any prudent regard to their own reputations, promote the matrimonial views of their gay friends of the other sex, upon the
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the artless and unexperienced daughters of opulence just entering into the circles of the ton. This convenient gentlewoman had promised Mr. Wingfield to speak (as she expressed it) a good word for him.

The honest unsuspecting 'Squire received our young fortune-hunter with great cordiality. The ladies, more especially Miss Margery, with a joy which they took not the least care to conceal. He paid every part of the family the most polite attention; told them there was that morning to be a great auction at Christie's, that all the fashionable world would be at the ^{opening} ~~offering~~, if they pleased, he would escort them thither. The proposition was readily accepted. "And, I hope," said the 'Squire, after this same auction, you will give us your company, Captain, to dinner, at my friend Sir Gregory Gretton's.—He desired me, to tell you, that, as he understands you are to meet us at the play, he commissions me to desire the pleasure of your company to dine with him in Grovesnor Square." The Ensign bowed

bowed an acceptance of the invitation. "And you will stop," resumed the 'Squire, taking his hat, "at Mr. Hatchet's, the coach-maker, in Long Acre, there you will find me: you shall see the new landau I have bespoke; and Master Hatchet may then cast his eye upon our coach, which he is to have in exchange for the new one, and for which I am to pay him the difference. After which, if you don't think I shall disgrace you, I will accompany you to the auction room of that jewel of man, or, as I have heard the late Mr. Foote, still more comically was used to call him, that jewel of a man of the first water, Mr. Christie."

The ladies and their military beau failed not to call at Mr. Hatchet's; they saw, and approved, the landau the 'Squire had engaged for; the price to be given for the coach was settled; the 'Squire and his lady's arms were to be affixed to the new equipage, and it was to be ready for them by that day se'nnight. It was now time to attend the auction, and away they drove. The 'Squire chusing, as he said,
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for the sake of exercise, rather to walk.

It was an auction of great promise, and all the fashionable world, who professed to have any taste for the fine arts, were present. The whole tribe of real and affected connoisseurs, as usual, attended; some to purchase, and a greater part to criticise the pictures that day to be submitted to the hammer of this celebrated auctioneer. The company were not a little entertained by the droll remarks of the honest 'Squire. His dress, as before has been observed, though perfectly neat, was by no means fashionable—it was rather singular: but no sooner was it whispered that he was possessed of a clear rental of 6,000*l.* a year, than it was agreed that he had an undoubted right to wear whatever dress he pleased; they viewed him with that kind of respect with which a wealthy humourist is generally regarded—his jokes were admired, and almost as much laughed at as the jokes of royalty itself.

Amongst other paintings put up for sale was a most magnificent one of Daniel in the den of lions. It had been ascribed to the pencil of the famous Rubens. These fierce and voracious animals, amongst whom the Prophet was represented, beardless, and naked upon a stone, were drawn larger than life; they had been well grouped, and were finely contrasted. It was altogether a very striking picture, and bid fair to be knocked down at a very high price; and so it, perhaps, would have been, but for an unlucky observation of the 'Squire's. A connoisseur had remarked there was strong character expressed in the several countenances of the lions. "Odds, my life!" said the 'Squire, "the gentleman is certainly right, the lions seem to have acted perfectly in character; for, till they knew who their prisoner was, which they seem not to have known at first, they appear to have paid him little respect, for, though they have spared the person of the Prophet, they have absolutely clawed off his beard, and, unmercifully torn away every rag of clothes from off his back."

back." The fair naïveté of the remark had so petrifying an effect—an effect by no means intended by the good-natured 'Squire, that nothing like the estimated value was bid, and the picture of course bought in.

At the moment the auction room had been thrown into a roar of laughter by the quaint and comical criticism of the 'Squire, to the great joy of Mr. Quicksett, entered Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, and his other friends, from Grovesnor Square. He saluted them, in his humorous way, with great cordiality, saying, "Here I am, Baronet, sure enough; the last place in the world where you would expect to have found me. I-fackins! I fear I have disturbed this good company; but, some how or other, they are so civil to a stranger from the country, who knows no better, that, though they laugh at me and my oddities, they have not yet turned me out of the room: and, now you are come, I know I shall be safe—her ladyship and yourself will take me under your wing." Sir Gregory took

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him

him kindly by the hand, telling him in a whisper, "that he was come to buy a picture, which he had taken a view of some days before."

The picture which had thus attracted the notice of the Baronet was soon afterwards exhibited to the company by the auctioneer's attendants. It was almost the next lot in succession. It was an original piece of that charming painter, Sir Anthony Vandyke, in high preservation, and in his very best manner. The subject was a family group, and perfectly well composed. It consisted of six figures: the father, the mother with a lovely little girl in her arms, and three sons of different ages. The old gentleman, in the dress of the times, and with the kind of beard worn in the reign of the first Charles, was drawn in the attitude of describing the beauties of a bust of the Roman poet, Virgil, a cast of which, in ^{terra-cotta} ~~terra-lotta~~, was supported by the second son, a boy of fourteen; the elder, a youth of perhaps twenty, was viewing the bust with the most fixed attention; the younger, a boy
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of eight or nine years of age, was affectionately leaning upon the arm of his mother, who, with great maternal solicitude, seemed to survey her family, who were thus gathered about her. The characters were strongly marked. The right hand of the father rested upon the bust, the other was in the attitude of description. The boy who supported the bust, the object of the old gentleman's description, and of the eldest son's critical observation, was drawn with only an attention sufficient to keep the bust from falling. The younger, attentive only to his mother. The little girl in the mother's arms was drawn smiling in all the tenderness of infancy, and extending her little hands to the mother in playful innocence. The picture was greatly admired; and, though the picture exhibited the portraits of a family with whom the 'Squire declared himself totally unacquainted, yet so highly did it strike his fancy, "that, I vow," said he, "Gretton, if it were not to bid against my friend, I would buy that picture myself." "It is for the opposite

posite reason," whispered the Baronet, "that I bid for that picture; for, besides the intrinsic merit of the piece, I know, and have a particular regard for the family, whose ancestors, Vandyke, who was their intimate friend, has in this piece represented." The picture was knocked down to Sir Gregory at six hundred and fifty guineas.

"Give you joy, Sir Gregory! give you joy of your purchase!" exclaimed the Squire; "not a soul but yourself should have had that picture for a sixpence under a thousand; for, so much am I in love with that sweet little smirking girl, and her good matronly mother, that I would have given five hundred for them alone, without any other part of the picture—not that I would mean to disparage the honest gentleman in his cloak, with his forked beard and whiskers—he is a fine old boy, and, I dare say, gives a special good account of the dead man's head, which his eldest boy looks at as eagerly as if he could live upon it for a month."

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The young officer was introduced by his friends to the Baronet and Lady Gretton. They received him with their usual grace, telling him they had expected the favour of his company to dinner at four o'clock. The auction was now over, and the company retired to their several homes to dress.

During the time she had been in the auction-room, Lady Gretton had noticed the uncommon assiduity of the young Ensign of the guards, in his attentions to the ladies of the Quicksett family; uncommon, because it is not the fashion of the present times for young men to practice that gallant politeness by the fair sex, which so peculiarly distinguished the beaux of the last age. In fact, ceremony is so little in fashion, that few modern fine gentlemen ever exceed the bounds of mere common civility by the beauteous part of the creation, without a design either upon their persons or their fortunes. Mr. Wingfield had been so particular in the court he paid to the 'Squire's lady and her daughters, that it left Lady Gretton

ton in no doubt, that he had formed a plan of making a conquest of either Miss Margery or Miss Alice; of the former, most probably, as she was the richest. Her Ladyship had given a hint of her suspicions to her friends, and Mrs. Summerfield and they were decidedly of the same opinion.

The behaviour of our military beau at dinner, and at the play in the evening, was such as served to confirm Lady Gretton, and her friends, in their suspicions. As to the honest 'Squire, he seemed to suspect nothing, but to be so exceedingly wrapped up in his new acquaintance, as to render it a matter of extreme delicacy to light up any jealousy whatever in his mind, of the young Captain (as he called him) having the most distant intention of making love to either of his daughters.

The play had happened to be the Provoked Husband, or the Journey to London. Lady Gretton and Sir Gregory thought a fair opportunity offered itself to put the 'Squire upon his guard. He had

had been highly delighted with the comic characters of Sir Francis Wronghead and his family. They observed to him the narrow escape Sir Francis had had of his daughter's being ran away with by the gambling Count Basset. "Odds, heartlikins!" he replied, "and so he had; and, for aught I can see, both mother and daughter had a month's mind to the Count—he might have run away with both of 'em. And, did you mind," he added, "how quickly that jade, Lady Wronghead, had learned to lose her money at the hazard table? I can tell you," he continued, in a whisper to Lady Gretton, "my madam begins too well to love deep play; she makes no scruple to say, it is proper for a woman of fashion." Still he made no application of Count Bassett's intrigue with Miss Jenny to any intention his young military friend might have formed of gaining the affections of either of his own fair daughters. Lady Gretton, therefore, and Sir Gregory said no more for the present.

C H A P. LXII.

LEAVING our unthinking honest Squire to the probable consequences of his blind security in the honour and good opinion he had conceived for his new military friend, we adjourn to a more pleasing scene, the domestic occurrences in the family of the worthy Baronet, who makes so material a part of this history. Sir Gregory had obtained the consent of Dr. Summerfield, and his Lady, to accept his present of a new coach. He had told them, which was really the case, that though it had never been used, having been made for a gentleman who had been obliged, unexpectedly, to leave England, upon being appointed Secretary to a distant Embassy, it had cost him only a very moderate sum. That, upon the opening prospect of the Doctor's nephew, the young Edmund's succeeding to Lord W——'s estate, the Doctor might well afford an additional pair of horses, and either to drive the

the coach which he took the liberty of presenting him, by means of a coachman upon the box, with the four horses in hand, or, as he knew Mrs. Summerfield would best approve, as being more safe, assisted by a postilion. Dr. Summerfield, and his Lady, who were both of them of the best dispositions imaginable, had, in their composition, the benevolence of knowing how to accept graciously, as well as to bestow liberally—perhaps, the latter faculty was the most congenial to their natural temper: but, as they were truly sensible, that their friend, Sir Gregory, meant the matter kindly, they accepted his present, with a grace similar to that with which the Baronet had made it, and without hesitation came into his proposal.

The ladies, that is to say, Lady Gretton, Mrs. Summerfield, Mrs. Seldon, Mrs. and Miss Musgrave, and Mrs. Richards and her pupil, Eleonora, who, every day, became more and more the rising hope of the house of Gretton, passed very many of their mornings with their venerable

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friend,

friend, Mrs. Williamfon. Upon one of these visits, the good old lady had taken notice, how highly she had been pleased with the good natured condescension of the Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield, in not refusing her nephew's present of the coach. "I am too," said this excellent old lady, "to solicit a similar condescension on the part of my good friend, Mrs. Musgrave. It is some time since, because I found it to disagree with me, that I left off taking snuff; with Mrs. Musgrave, I perceive, it does not disagree; my snuff box, which of course is no longer of use to me, is of some value—will Mrs. Musgrave have the goodness to accept it, and keep it for my sake?" My good friend, presenting it to her, must not now examine its contents; what it contains may be of more convenience to her, than it really is to me. "You will confer upon me," she continued, "my dear Madam, an additional obligation by applying it as you may think proper." Mrs. Musgrave, who was a perfectly good woman, and loved the old lady, as indeed did all who had the sensibility to regard her as she deserved,

deserved, with almost a filial affection, did as she was directed. Kissing the hand of the venerable donor, she placed the snuff box in her pocket. It was a small gold box, and it inclosed a bank bill of 50l. It amply defrayed, which was the design of Mrs. Williamson, the expence of Mrs. Musgrave's London journey.

(Mr. Musgrave, about this time, received letters from India of the most agreeable nature. The writer to the Company, and the young gentleman who had originally been apprenticed to Mr. Centlivre, were both doing extremely well; and, by collateral accounts given of the youths in the letters addressed to Sir Gregory, they were both declared to be young gentlemen of the fairest promise. In addition to this cordial, the worthy Simpson, whom Mr. Musgrave and Mr. Seldon frequently called upon, assured his father, that his son, whom our good Baronet had placed in his accompting-house, gave him every reason to hope, that he would one day prove as accomplished a merchant as any upon the Royal

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Exchange. The Seldon boys had not been overlooked, Sir Gregory and his friends had made a morning excursion to Greenwich to visit them. The master of the academy at which they were placed, spoke handsomely of the progress they had made in their several exercises; and, (with the allowance to be made for a certain creolian wildness peculiar to the youths from our West India colonies) gave so good an account of the young gentlemen, that Sir Gregory promised them, as a reward, that, as soon as their friend Edmund arrived in town, they should be sent for to pass some days with him in taking the diversions of the town.



C H A P. LXIII.

I N the Quicksett's family, the crisis which Lady Gretton and Sir Gregory had foreseen, seemed fast approaching. The 'Squire and young Wingfield were inseparable. The ladies, when the weather permitted, were constantly attended by their military beau to the Park, or they drove to Kensington Gardens, or to Hyde Park. He made the best of his time; and lest, as it should seem, this parade hero, should not have opportunities sufficient for the execution of his plan, the ladies of the 'Squire's household had prevailed upon him, to make his own and their excuses for not every day dining in Grovesnor Square. They had generally, therefore, their dinner from an adjoining tavern. Their military friend was almost their constant guest; he attended the ladies in the morning, he drank at dinner a hearty bottle with the 'Squire, and he gallanted the whole party in the evening to the play, or the opera,

opera, or some other place of fashionable entertainment.

It should have been noted, that Mrs. Maxwell had more than once visited these good folks, as she stiled them, in speaking of them to her more fashionable friends in Charles Street; she had several times been of their parties, and had not failed to perform her promise made to our young Ensign, of impressing the Quicksett ladies in his favour; she found, to her great satisfaction, that the bait had effectually taken, of which she omitted not to apprize her gay friend. He concerted his plan, with the aid and assistance of this convenient gentlewoman, accordingly.

The night of Mrs. Maxwell's assembly now arrived. The Quicksett's were all there, 'Squire and all. The ladies dressed in the utmost extremity of the fashion: the honest 'Squire in his usual plain attire. Lady Gretton, and the ladies of her house, had excused themselves from attending this fashionable lady's rout. The truth was, they so clearly perceived the insatuation

tuation of the whole Quicksett family, with respect to this parade adventurer, that, as they could not prevent its success, they were, at least, determined not to give countenance to his design. The Captain, as the 'Squire continued to call him, had, without any very great difficulty, obtained the consent of the eldest of the Miss Quicksetts to elope with him, and to go off to Scotland, and this night, as it had been contrived between Mrs. Maxwell and himself, was to be the night when his scheme was to be put in execution.

Mrs. Maxwell's rooms were all filled. She had seated Mrs. Quicksett and the youngest of the daughters at the loo table. The eldest, upon pretence of not so well understanding the game, for which she had been commended by the still unsuspecting 'Squire, had with-drawn to one of the other apartments. The 'Squire had placed himself behind his wife and daughter, not a little agitated at the sums he had the mortification of seeing them lose. At length they rose from the loo

table with their purses entirely drained, and in no very good humour at having been drawn in to play at a game they neither of them well understood. Their coach was called, and Miss Quicksett sought for in all the apartments; but, alas! Miss Quicksett was no where to be found. The 'Squire called aloud for his friend the Captain. But his friend, the Captain——“By whom I suppose you mean,” said a lady to him, “young Wingfield, of the foot-guards,” had not been seen for the last two hours. “It is most probable,” observed an antiquated old cat of quality, “that the young folks have made an eloping business of it.” “What mean you, Madam?” said the astonished 'Squire. “Only, Sir,” with the greatest sang-froid imaginable replied the beldam, “that the young Ensign, and your daughter, are probably gone off together to *Gretna Green*.” “Z'wounds!” returned the 'Squire, “wherever, that same green may be, I'll be after them,” and away he flew. His Lady and Miss Alice, who were also not a little discomposed by the intelligence, were persuaded,

suaded, by the lady of the house, to retire to her dressing-room, and to take, each of them, a glass of hartshorn and water; at the same time, this complete mistress of dissimulation, offering them, with an appearance of much concern upon the occasion, every consolation she could call up for the purpose, that might serve to lessen their apprehensions. To quiet them altogether she knew was impossible; for, added to vexation arising from the circumstance of having (both the mother and daughter) a partiality for this captivating son of Mars—they had lost their money.

A few minutes brought the 'Squire to his house in Charles Street. His man Solomon was immediately summoned to attend him. This trusty domestic in an instant perceived that all was not right. Solomon loved his master, and deservedly (as before has been noted) stood high in his confidence. Solomon found him in his dressing parlour, traversing the room with hasty strides, his hat thrown upon the ground, and biting his lips.

Solomon carefully took up the 'Squire's hat, at the same time brushing it with the sleeve of his coat. "I am sure, Sir," he said, "something hugely terrible has happened—has the new landau been overturned, and Mistress, or our young Misses, broke any of their precious limbs?" "Worse! worse! a great deal!" reiterated the 'Squire. "Could never have thought it! could never have thought it! would have trusted him with all I was worth in the world; and, to play me such a trick!"—"Has any one in this whorson town of London robb'd your honour?" "Robb'd, Solomon! ay, robb'd indeed, with a murrain to him! The Captain who has lately been so much with Madam, and the girls, has run away with Madge.—But I'll after them, Solomon; I'll after them.—Has carried her to some Green——Gretna Green! ay, that's the name; what he means to do with her at Gretna Green, or whereabouts the plaguy Green is—suppose some church stands upon the Green, and they mean to be married at it. The parson, sure, will never marry them at this time of night?

And

And we'll do our best to overtake 'em before morning. Away, Solomon; let me have my boots; order a post-chaise, and four of the fastest cattle you can find, and do you come after me to Sir Gregory's; and, d'ye see, Solomon, load my wogden pistols." Solomon did as he was bid. The 'Squire drew on his boots, and pushed off for his friend the Baronet's.

The family were preparing to retire to their several apartments, but they again sat down upon the 'Squire's being announced. "I am sure," said Lady Gretton, "something disastrous has happened; and I am prepared to expect what." The 'Squire entered. "Odds, heartlikins, Baronet!" he vociferated, as he approached the table; "what d'ye think has happened?" "I'll tell you," answered Sir Gregory: "your new acquaintance, the military gentleman, has ran away with one of your daughters." "Why, how the devil," returned the 'Squire, "could you be so unfriendly, if the young dog told you of his design—how, the devil and Dr. Faustus! could you find

find in your heart to keep it from me? Perhaps, too, he has desired you not to let me know where Gretna Green is? the place to which, as an old quality hag, who, I suppose was, as well as yourself, in the secret, has advised me to go in pursuit of the runaways." "Sit down, my good friend," at the same time pouring out a glass of Madeira, which he insisted upon his drinking, "sit down, and endeavour to compose yourself." "Won't taste a drop of your wine, by the Lord Harry!" exclaimed the 'Squire, with no small appearance of anger, "if you don't tell me the reason for so carefully keeping the Captain's secret? The more surprised you should be so confoundedly close, as you did not seem, nor her Ladyship neither, mainly to like the chap." "Neither did we;" gravely, yet with perfect good humour, replied Sir Gregory: "we more than once hinted our disapprobation of him, but you appeared so entirely wrapped up in him, that we thought it improper any farther to interfere. It was solely upon conjecture that we guessed the cause of your extreme agitation;

agitation; we did suppose, from his very close attention, that he had a design upon one of your daughters." "So, then, you did not know which? well, I believe you, so here's my hand;" and taking off a bumper of Madeira, "I drink all your good healths—but you'll tell me where Gretna Green is? I've ordered a post-chaise and four to meet me here; I may overtake 'em perhaps time enough to prevent the girl from throwing herself away from love of a red coat and a cockade. Alice is safe: 'tis that plaguy harum-skarum Madge that has taken it into her head to run away with the Captain, and given me the trouble, an be hanged to her, at this time o'night, to run after her. But come, tell me, where is Gretna Green? does it lie to the right or the left of Turnham Green? somewhere, I guess, near town, where they keep ready furnished lodgings for these sort of young run-aways till they can get married."

The 'Squire had sat down, had filled his glass, and with infinitely more calmness than he had hitherto spoke, had waited

waited the Baronet's reply to his demand concerning the situation of Gretna Green. Sir Gregory told him, "that it was a good deal farther from London than he had imagined—that it was in Scotland, some miles on the other side the town of Berwick, where resided a person who gained a very comfortable income by joining together in matrimony any such young folks as Ensign Wingfield and Miss Quicksett, who could not have contrived to have been so easily married in England."

"Body-o-me!" cried out the 'Squire, "I have heard of these same Scotch marriages; but I always thought the scamperers had to go as far as ^{Edinburgh} ~~Edin-borough~~ to get fettered? Gretna Green is, I warrant you then, near fifty miles o'this side of it. A pretty jaunt shall Solomon and I have of it; and, perhaps, after all, make what haste we may, Madge and her spark may get to the yoke-shop before us. Advise me, Lady Gretton; you know I always love to have your Ladyship's opinion. Is it worth while to hazard a
wild

wild-goose chase after this pair of hair-brains?"

"If I may freely, my good neighbour, give you my opinion," very frankly answered her Ladyship, "it is by no means to incur a fatigue which, in all probability, would be fruitless, of a journey to Scotland; they have, by this time, got so much the start of you, that you would scarcely be able to overtake them; and you would, perhaps, have only the mortification of meeting them upon the road on their return from their matrimonial tour." "Odds, my life!" replied the Squire; "spoke as you always do, to the purpose, my Lady. Fore George! I'll take your advice, and Solomon shall discharge the chaise. Better, I believe, keep my ground, and look watchfully after the rest of my dainty dames. As sure as a gun, Lady Gretton," added the Squire, "because there were not gamesters enough already in this blessed town, my wife and her youngest looby must take to deep play.—They did not leave be-

hind them, at Madam Maxwell's loo table, an' behanged to her, less than a good two hundred pounds, and all done in a twink, as one may say—in less than two hours: an hundred pound an hour Sir Gregory himself could not afford. At this rate it will be soon up with me. I'll e'en leave Madge and her spark to make out as well as she can—can't touch a penny of her fortune till she comes of age, which will be about this time twelvemonth; till then they must shift upon my young master red coat's commission; and my loo gambling wife and daughter I'll ^{trundle} bundle back into the country, for fear of their getting into more mischief.—Have I, my dear Lady Gretton, your approbation for thus determining?”

The company, as well as Lady Gretton, very much applauded the 'Squire's resolution, if he found he could not depend upon Mrs. Quicksett's and his daughter's prudence, in avoiding, for the future, the desperation of deep play. “I should hope,” interposed Dr. Summerfield,

merfield, "that the ladies will be cured by their ill run of to-night. You will, most certainly, insist upon their breaking off their connection with Mrs. Maxwell—we all think her a dangerous acquaintance; and, in future, so, I trust, will Mrs. and Miss Quicksett."

"If I don't keep you up, Sir Gregory," resumed the Squire, "I'll take another glass of your excellent Madeira. I begin, I feel, to recover my spirits, which were sorely put to the rout." "And with your spirits, my worthy friend, you will, I persuade myself, recover also your good-humour. I disapprove, as much as you can, these run-away weddings; but my rule is, when an evil is irremediable, to endeavour to make the best of it. This rash young couple ought not to be rendered desperate: if you please, when they return, Lady Gretton and I will talk to them.—We will offer them our advice, and our good offices; and, perhaps, we may make out better with them than by leaving them to themselves."

"Thank you, thank you, my dear Gretton!" with the tears almost in his eyes; "you always advise for the best—we'll leave every thing to you—and so, with one more glass, good night to you."



C H A P. LXIV.

WE will now, with the reader's permission, adjourn from the bustle and intrigue of a luxurious capital, to the more quiet and tranquil scenes of the country. We had left my Lord W—— rapidly recovering from his paralytic affection. His adopted son, our young Edmund, and his tutor, Mr. Adamson, had, at his Lordship's express desire, remained at Myrtle Grove, under a promise of being indulged with an excursion to London, where they were to continue a fortnight. The time now was near at hand when the completion of this promise was to take place.

Lord W—— was so well recovered from his palsy, through the efficacious administration of the medical powers of electricity by Mr. Walter Rosemary, that his Lordship was able to walk without any other assistance than that of a crutch-stick. On the day which was to proceed
the

the departure of Mr. Adamson and his pupil, as they were sitting at breakfast in the library, Lord W—— took notice to his sister, Lady Anne, that he had yesterday received a letter from his new steward, Mr. Selby, to whom he had given directions to dispose of his house in Cavendish Square, informing him, that the noble Lord who had been in treaty for the purchase of it was either unable, or unwilling, to pay down the sum which Sir Gregory had himself considered as a **fair** price for a transfer of the lease; in **fine**, that they were not likely to agree, and that the house, with its furniture, was **not** yet parted with."

"I do suppose," said his Lordship, "Lady Anne, the truth is, that the noble Peer, who was still more addicted to deep play than myself, has had a bad run; and, as it will with me in future, a less superb house will better suit his circumstances. So utterly do I, in my present frame of mind, a frame of mind I hope never to relinquish, dislike all pomp and parade, that it was my fixed purpose never
again,

again, during my necessary attendance upon the duties of Parliament, to have resided in so proud an edifice: but so it is, the house it seems is still in my possession, and we must look out for another purchaser of the lease. Under this necessity, and with a house for the present upon our hands, with a certain expence upon it whether we make use of it or not, what say you, Lady Anne, to a fortnight's jaunt to town with our young friend and his tutor? We will surprise Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton by making them a visit when they least expected it, and be ourselves the escort of Edmund and Mr. Adamson, instead of sending them in the post-chaise without us? My spirits," he continued, "are, I thank God, so good, and my health so restored, that, though I mean not to be in town but only occasionally during the present sessions, methinks I should like to shew myself to the House of Commons, if it were only to convince the Minister, and his friend Dungarvon, that my conversion is decided and sincere."

Lady

Lady Anne very readily assented to the proposition, and the necessary orders were given for their setting out on the morrow; an arrangement highly agreeable to our young Edmund no less than to Lord W——, for he was become as much attached to his Lordship as Lord W—— was to him. If Lord W—— regarded his adopted son with an almost parental affection, he was in his turn beloved and esteemed by Edmund, in a manner nearly approaching to filial reverence: in fact, on the part of his Lordship, the company of Edmund was become so essential to his happiness, that he was not sorry that the house in Cavendish Square was still in his possession, that he might have the pleasure, before it was finally parted with, of making it the scene of formally presenting his kinsman, Edmund Summerfield, to certain of his London friends, under the character of his adopted son and heir.

Mr. Walter Rosemary, as before has been noted, had, at the earnest desire of Lord W——, taken up, for the present,
his

his residence at Myrtle Grove; he had made occasional visits to Hawthorn Dale to superintend the works carrying on there, but he constantly slept, and for the most part dined with his Lordship at the Grove, Lord W—— still undergoing a morning's course of electricity, and continuing to insist that his philosophical physician, as he was used to style Mr. Rosemary, from whom he had experienced such very signal relief, should always dine at his own table. "I am now," said he, "friend Walter, to intermit, for the space of a fortnight, the application of your electrical skill.—Think you, that I may do it safely?" "In truth," replied our philosopher, rubbing together his hands with peculiar satisfaction, "in truth, my Lord, I think you may; your Lordship has been, and, I trust, will remain, a shining proof what electricity can effect. I would, however, incline to recommend that the apparatus continue at the Grove during the time of your Lordship's good pleasure to sojourn, as one may say, in the great city; and, upon your return, by way of confirming the

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cure, (for such Mr. Hawkesby himself considers it,) to suffer me a few times more to electrify your good Lordship, and to draw sparks from the side which is now nearly, if not altogether, restored to its former—its original integrity.”

“My *fide*,” thought Lord W—— within himself, “(politically as well as naturally speaking) possesses somewhat more integrity than it could have boasted of possessing some months ago.”



C H A P. LXV.

LEAVING Lord W——, his sister, the young Edmund, and his tutor, to pursue their journey to the metropolis, we have now to turn our attention to the honest 'Squire Quicksett and his family, whose excursion to, and short sejour in that proud and luxurious city, ycleped London, had been attended with more than one unpropitious circumstance.

The 'Squire, it has been seen, had yielded to the reasons urged by Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, in order to dissuade him from his purposed pursuit of his run-away daughter and her lover. He had returned to his house in Charles Street, in an infinitely calmer state of mind than he had left it; and almost was he come to the resolution of making the best of his misfortune, and, upon proper terms of submission, to forgive the fugitives. His wife and younger daughter had not yet retired to bed, but were wait-

ing his arrival, for they had been made acquainted by Solomon, who, after paying and dismissing the chaise, had repaired to Charles Street for the express purpose of giving the information, that he had relinquished his plan of pursuit. He found them, more especially the mother, in a state of great exasperation against the adventurers. Upon his entering the drawing room, the 'Squire perceived they had both been crying—but their tears had been tears of vexation for their ill fortune at the loo table, not of concern for the elopement of Miss Quicksett. The honest 'Squire had altogether in his own mind sunk the lavish waste of his money upon a set of gamblers, from the consideration of his greater loss—the loss of his daughter. He naturally, therefore, supposed, that the tears of his wife and Miss Alice flowed from apprehension, that, in the fury of his resentment, he would swear bitterly, never to pardon his rebellious daughter; under this opinion he felt himself softened. He took a hand of each, "bidding them be comforted; and that, according to the old proverb,

proverb,

proverb, *what can't be cur'd must be endur'd.*" He never was more mistaken in his life. They both withdrew their hands. "Tell me not," said Mrs. Quicksett, in great anger, "of your musty proverbs, it shall neither be cur'd nor endur'd by me, I will assure you. A couple of artful hypocrites! I never can, or will endure either of them. I think I could have forgiven the Captain if he had run away with Alice here; I am sure he always shewed himself fonder of her than of her sister; and, Alice knows, he was so particular to me, that I sometimes did not know well what to make of it.—I tell you, Mr. Quicksett, she is my daughter as well as your's; and, I do think, I shall never be able to look upon her again, with patience, as long as I live; and, for the Captain, instead of Scotland, I wish he was at Greenland shivering upon a cake of ice." "Odds, heartlikins!" replied the 'Squire, "I never could have thought you had had so hard a heart! what never to forgive the poor girl? Look at home, look at home, my Lady Wronghead, throwing away your money by hundreds

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at

at a loo table; at least, Madge has not that to answer for. And pray what say you, Mrs. ^{Grings}~~Munx~~? as deep in the mud as your gambling mother is in the mire: what you, I warrant me too, can never forgive poor Madge—but I say no more, I say no more, Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton will be here to-morrow morning—I shall be guided by them; and, if you have, either of you, a single spark of grace about you, so chearfully will both of you; and promise that, for the future, neither in town or country, you will never be tempted to sit down to a table of female gamblers. And as to Margery, and her new lord and master, I must insist, that you learn, like me, to forget and forgive, as one may say, to make the best of it.”



C H A P. LXVI.

IN the composition of Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton there existed as much true benevolence of soul as could well be imagined, nor were the Dr. and Mrs. Summerfield inferior to them in benignity of heart. They had, both the Dr. and his Lady, entered cordially into the Baronet's plan of conciliation—they were of the same opinion with him and his most amiable Lady, that young people, though extremely censurable for engaging in so very serious an affair as matrimony, without consultation of their parents, ought not to be driven to despair. "I may, perhaps," said the Doctor, on the night of elopement, after the 'Squire had retired, "be of some use upon this occasion. As I was this morning walking in Bond Street, I met the father of our young Ensign; we had not seen each other for several years; formerly we had been intimate; we were both sincerely pleased at the unexpected rencontre, and each

each declared as much: we took a dish of coffee at the Mount, where, it seems, (as he informed me) my old acquaintance has lodgings for the few nights he means to continue in town. Mr. Wingfield, with no little pain of heart, made me acquainted with the business that had brought him from the country. 'My youngest son,' said he, 'has nearly ruined himself by an unhappy passion for play. I bought him, some years since, a pair of colours in the foot guards, and I allowed him the utmost I could afford, two hundred pounds a year in addition to his pay.—Alack-a-day!' he continued, 'nothing is sufficient for a gamester. I am come up to see what can be done for him—much do I fear his commission must be sold for the payment of his debts, unless a stolen marriage, which a brother officer of his told me is now ⁱⁿ ~~on~~ its course between him and a young lady of fortune, should be the means of saving my poor indiscreet boy from ruin. I hope,' added Mr. Wingfield, 'the thoughtless girl has not ruined herself by the hasty step, which she certainly will have done if Tom does not

not seriously determine never again to touch a dice box."

The Doctor concluded his account by mentioning, "that he had engaged himself to breakfast the next morning with Mr. Wingfield; that from the coffee-house they were to adjourn to take a walk in the park, and to call at his son's lodgings to know when he might be expected in town: there, if the day is fine, you will be sure to meet us. And, possibly, it might not be amiss, were you to bring the 'Squire in your hand, after having, with the assistance of Lady Gretton, reconciled Mrs. Quicksett to the patient endurance of her daughter's too hasty nuptials, and convinced both herself, and Miss Alice, of the dire consequences of contracting a habit of deep play." The Baronet, and Lady Gretton, highly approved of the plan proposed by the Doctor, and the former promised to bring the honest 'Squire with him to meet them in the Park.

Sir Gregory, and his Lady, were in Charles Street so early as eleven o'clock. They were desirous that no time might be lost; it was their wish to induce their friend to pursue peaceful measures, and the ladies to break off their connection with Mrs. Maxwell. They succeeded, with but little difficulty, in both their plans. The 'Squire was in his nature placable, though, at the first blush of an irritable business, warm and passionate: and the ladies were so sufficiently humbled, by the loss of their money, as to make no difficulty in promising Lady Gretton, that, in future, while they staid in town, they would engage in no parties whatsoever, but in the company of her Ladyship. The good-natured 'Squire was so entirely softened by their ready acquiescence, that he gave each of the unfortunate gamesters a hearty kiss, and very amply replenished their exhausted purses. "And now," said he, "Sir Gregory, I am at your service to meet the Doctor and his friend, as you have proposed; and, I hope, we shall be able to
make

make a tolerably good end of a bad beginning. Mrs. Quicksett, and my daughter, Alice, I leave in the hands of Lady Gretton; if they will but be directed by her Ladyship, they will never again do wrong." So saying, he hastened away, with Sir Gregory, to the Park, where the Doctor, and his friend Wingfield, were expecting them.

There was an openness in the manners of Mr. Wingfield which was engaging and attractive. It exceedingly pleased Sir Gregory; and it very quickly won the heart of the well-meaning Squire. After two or three turns in the Mall, they were as well acquainted as persons of a more reserved turn are in the constrained intercourse of years. It was proposed to adjourn to the lodgings of the younger Wingfield, which were in Spring Gardens: thither they went. As soon as they were seated, "I mean, Gentlemen," said the old gentleman, "to be perfectly frank with you; I will conceal nothing; my estate, which is a tolerably good one, is settled upon my eldest son: my wife's

fortune was made a reserve of for younger children. I have one daughter. They would each have been intitled to five thousand pounds. My son Tom's portion, what with the purchase of his commission, and his unhappy itch for gaming, is, I fear, more than already spent. I have allowed him, what I am ready to continue, two hundred pounds a year, in addition to his pay. Tom has been profligate; but, I hope, is not abandoned. If he can correct his intolerable love of play, I think he may yet make as good a husband as he has the reputation, with all his extravagance, of having made a good officer. Of his future intentions we shall have an earnest, in his readily consenting, or not, to settling Miss Quickfett's fortune upon her."

The 'Squire, who was all attention, was upon the spur to have committed himself—in other words, to have embraced the terms proposed by Mr, Wingfield, but the prudence of Sir Gregory and Dr. Summerfield stopped him. "All," they said, "must depend upon the behaviour

viour of the young people. We will both of us visit them upon their return from their Northern expedition; we will offer them our mediation with the justly offended father. If they shew themselves properly touched by the proposed interposition of our good offices with our friend, and the young gentleman solemnly engages to relinquish the habit of gaming, we shall recommend to Mr. Quicksett to pay his son-in-law's debts, to advance him a sum of money for the purchase of a captain's commission, and to add to the allowance which he already has from his father, an annuity of three hundred pounds, which, if they resolve to be prudent, will be a very decent establishment." Here then it was agreed the matter should rest till the return of the fugitives.

[For the sake of connection let it be here related, that after somewhat less than a week's absence, during which interval, such was the honest 'Squire's impatience to be reconciled to the offenders, that it was with difficulty he was restrained

strained from meeting them upon the road. Every thing was settled through the friendly agency of our good Baronet and Dr. Summerfield, to the mutual satisfaction of all parties. The lovers, agreeably to the advice of Sir Gregory and Dr. Summerfield, made their submission in proper form. The 'Squire very cordially forgave them. Young Wingfield, whose heart was not yet become thoroughly depraved by the accursed vice of gaming, solemnly covenanted never again to play at hazard, or ever, in future, to venture any sums beyond what he could conveniently afford to lose—an engagement, we are happy to say, he religiously kept. He was raised to the rank of captain in the army by the purchase for him of a lieutenancy in the foot guards; his encumbrances were discharged; Miss Quicksett's fortune was settled upon her; it was agreed that they should have the house in Charles Street, at present tenanted by the 'Squire, and that they should pass the summer months at the seat of their father. This arrangement was happily accommodated
by

by means of the prudential and friendly interposition of our good Baronet and Dr. Summerfield. An accommodation, as we shall see, in the course of these memoirs, to which the conduct of this younger son of the worthy Mr. Wingfield did no discredit.]



C H A P. LXVII.

LORD W——, his sister, Lady Anne, our young Edmund, and his tutor, Mr. Adamson, were now arrived at his Lordship's house in Cavendish Square. The Peer not only had borne his journey remarkably well, but was rather the better for it. On the morning after his arrival, his Lordship, and his company, agreeably surprised their Grovesnor-Square friends by a visit which they did not in the least expect. "Here I am," said Lord W——, upon entering the breakfast room, "come in person to surrender to you my little friend Edmund, if you insist upon retaining him. I should, however, hope you will not. I wish to present him to some few of my friends in the great world, as it is called, under his new relation, as my adopted son. I come, once more, into this same world, almost miraculously restored to my former health by the powers of electricity, through the agency of honest
Walter

Walter Rosemary. But I come, also, into it, for another purpose; in order to present myself, on the first interesting day, during my continuance in town, in the House of Commons, for the express purpose of convincing the Minister, and his friends, that I am (if I was of any value) irretrievably lost to them."

Sir Gregory, Lady Gretton, and their friends, most cordially congratulated the Peer upon his so near approach to a complete recovery: they gave him also high credit for his spirited resolution in regard to the Minister. "None of us," replied Sir Gregory, "entertain a doubt of your Lordship's perfect sincerity; but you are certainly right to satisfy such corrupt tools of a proud and imperious administration, as Dungarvon and his Com-peers, that they must no longer form hopes of either your Lordship's natural or political relapse." "Yes," resumed Lord W——, "I trust I shall be able to put them out of all hopes, by something more than a silent vote. I feel myself, in the autumn of my days, a free man: that I am so, I

am proud to declare, my dear Sir Gregory, I owe to your friendship, and to an endeavour at an imitation, however feint, of your virtues. You shall never again have reason to blush for me. But how does our honest friend Quicksett, I see him not amongst you; he is not, I hope, yet returned to the country?"

His Lordship's voice at that instant reached the 'Squire, who was entering the apartment. "No, that I am not;" he replied: "and, much as I hate London, I would have been content to have endured its smoke for the summer half of the year, to have beheld your Lordship so well restored as I have the pleasure of now seeing you: I don't know whether I would not risque having my remaining daughter run away with to Scotland, so it might have been the means of my witnessing so proud a day, as Lord W—— come up to take his seat in Parliament—found, not only in wind and limb, but found also at heart. Odds, my life! my Lord, I think Gretton, Summerfield, and myself, shall accompany you down to the

the house, to have the pleasure, from the gallery, of seeing how confoundedly small the ministerial rats will look, at observing Lord W—— sitting, and, perhaps, speaking in the opposition side of the House. I'fackins! my Lord," continued the 'Squire, "Walter Rosemary has kept up his electrical fire upon your Lordship from his gun-barrel, and his glass-round-about, to some purpose: he has once more, in every sense of the word, made a man of you. By the mass! you now walk, through the trifling aid of your little ebony handled stick, with as firm a step as myself. Joy to you, my Lord, most cordially! joy to your Lordship! —And is my Lady Anne here? Your Ladyship may have heard, perhaps, that one of my mad-cap girls has run away with a young officer to Scotland? but it is all settled; Sir Gregory here, and Dr. Summerfield, have made all matters up— I hate to bear malice—so we only wait till they return from taking a little Scotch air; and, as I have hopes they will live to make me amends for my good nature,

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they

they shall have my blessing the moment they come properly to ask it."

Lord W——, and Lady Anne, gave the honest 'Squire great commendation for the placability of his intentions by the fugitives; desired to be introduced to them upon their return; and, turning to Lady Gretton, "we flatter ourselves," said her Ladyship, "with being much in the society of Lady Gretton, and her friends, during our short town residence. My brother, all the way we were upon the road, did nothing but talk of the plan of monopoly he had formed to himself; and, it must depend upon your Ladyship, whether or not your seal, and Sir Gregory's, shall be affixed to the patent."

"But, my Lady Anne," eagerly interposed the lovely Eleonora, "your Ladyship won't take Edmund entirely away from us? You will let him be sometimes with us in Grovesnor Square? I have a thousand things to say to him; and Papa
has

has promised us a ball while Edmund and the Master Seldons are in town, and, perhaps, your Ladyship, and Lord W—, will do us the honour to come with Edmund to our dance?" "Most certainly will we, my dear young Lady," replied his Lordship and his sister; "and, in return for your invitation, Edmund shall, in our names, invite you, and whatever young friends you may name, to a dance in Cavendish Square: and, to shew you," said Lord W—, "that we mean not to keep Edmund quite to ourselves, we will leave him with you to-day, to-morrow you will let him return; and, perhaps, yourself, Eleonora, and all this company of friends, will dine and spend the evening with us. Mrs. and Miss Quicksett," addressing himself to the 'Squire, "will, I hope, be of the party."



C H A P. LXVIII.

RIGHT glad were all the company at Sir Gregory's to see Lord W—— so well restored to his former state of health. They severally congratulated Lady Anne and himself upon his recovery; and they promised to obey his summons. Lady Gretton saying, with great hilarity, "I engage, my Lord, in the name of Sir Gregory, and all our friends, to affix my seal to the patent of monopoly which your Lordship has so politely requested. We devote ourselves to Lady Anne, and the worthy Peer, her brother, during their continuance in town; and, I believe, by the time the fortnight is expired, we shall be ourselves upon our return to the country, in order to prepare for the proper execution of the high office to which the Minister has so obligingly appointed my husband, and whose views in the appointment your Lordship has so spiritedly defeated." Lord W—— bowed upon the hand of
Lady

Lady Gretton, thanking her for the honour she did them, and the pleasure she gave them. They took their leave, the young Edmund remaining for the day in Grovesnor Square, his Lordship meaning to lock himself up for the whole afternoon with his steward, Mr. Selby. He was now no longer afraid to look his affairs in the face. He was become, to the great joy of his amiable and respectable sister, a man of business; and, in the purest sense of the expression—a man of œconomy.

If thou hast ever, Reader, enjoyed the sublime satisfaction of seeing assembled together, a select party of friends of different sexes, each possessed of more than a common share of understanding, good humour, and great benevolence of heart, then mayest thou form to thyself some idea of the society that alternately met at the houses of Sir Gregory Gretton, and Lord W——. The Seldon boys, to reward them for their application to their studies, and the polite exercises of a well-regulated academy, had received a visit from

from their fond and approving parents—a visit always welcome, but now more peculiarly so, as its design was, to escort them to our good Baronet's, in order that they might partake, in the company of our young Edmund, and the lovely Eleonora, of such amusements of the town as were proper for their age. The son of Mr. Musgrave, who, to the no small delight of his father, mother, and the excellent young lady, his sister, was assiduous in the duties of the accompting-house, was indulged by his master, the worthy Mr. Simpson, with a relaxation from the labours of the desk. He sometimes made one in their morning excursions; and was frequently accompanied by his friend and master, at dinner, and the evening parties.

They had every night a little concert, and after it a family dance, either in Grosvenor or Cavendish Square; or, to diversify their innocent pleasures, Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, and sometimes Lord W—— and Lady Anne, attended the young folks to the Theatre,
upon

upon which occasion the facetious 'Squire Quickfett, who, through the mediation of our good Baronet and Dr. Summerfield, was become perfectly reconciled to the adventurous lovers, never failed to be of their party. The Captain, and his recently married lady, had been introduced at Cavendish Square, as had Mrs. Quickfett and her youngest daughter, who were both now convinced of the folly of deep play, and had prudently dropped all connection with the artful and designing Mrs. Maxwell.



C H A P. LXIX.

I N this rational, and innocently pleasurable manner, were the two families of Cavendish and Grovesnor Square passing their time, when the moment arrived, that, after a temporary adjournment of the House, on account of the Speaker's illness, from which he was now happily recovered, that Lord W— was to resume his seat in the National Assembly of his country. His Lordship had been visited by several of the principal leaders in opposition to the Minister. They had heard of, had rejoiced at it, and had complimented him upon his conversion. Mr. B—— was not of the number, for he had by accident heard, that Lord W—— had declared himself warmly in favour of a reform in the parliamentary representation, and a repeal of the Test and Corporation Acts. Lord W—— regretted not his absence; he willingly excused receiving a visit from a man whose nerves were two delicate to
endure

endure any innovation either in church or state.

The day on which Lord W—— was to resume his seat was a day of great expectation. A motion was to be made, to take into consideration the state of the nation. His Lordship was accompanied down to the House by Sir Gregory and his friends; amongst whom, at Lord W——'s particular request, was his adopted son, our young Edmund. These took their seats in the gallery, as the noble Lord did his on the opposition benches of the House of Commons. With perfect composure his Lordship seated himself on the left hand of one of the greatest men which this or any other country, the present, or any preceding ages hath produced.—The description is sufficient without any mention of this illustrious person's name.

After several fine speeches from the principal speakers on each side of the House, and a multiplicity of smart ones from the light troops of both parties,

Lord W—— had fortunately caught the eye of the chairman. The House was in a committee. He arose with great dignity, and in perfect possession of himself. The honest 'Squire, who had his eye upon him, on seeing him rise, could not repress his ecstasy and his admiration. "On my life," says he, "Gretton, his Lordship is up! Look at him, Summerfield! by my soul he's no more daunted than if he was going to speak to any of us at Myrtle Grove!" "And I don't know why he should," in a whisper, said the young Edmund to Mr. Musgrave, "for I am sure my uncle, and Sir Gregory, have as much good sense, and as much honour and honesty, as any gentleman in this assembly." His Lordship spoke to the following effect:—

"MR. CHAIRMAN,

After having for many years uniformly voted on the side of administration, it may reasonably be expected, that I account to the House for the vote I mean to give on the present occasion—a vote
so

so essentially different from those I have, to my shame I speak it, been accustomed to give. The truth is, Sir, I was mean enough, (heartily do I wish I may be the only member of this House so circumstanced) I was mean enough, Sir, to submit to influence; from this influence I have been delivered by a friend who is an honour to human nature. He was to have been traversed, through my means, in the favourite object of his own, and the wishes of many honest gentlemen. I disdained so to traverse him—and the proposition itself brought me to a sense of the servility of my parliamentary conduct. I am, Sir, emancipated; and I am determined so to continue. That I have hitherto, when I sat on the other side of the House, been in the habit of giving only a silent vote, arose from hence; not from incapacity, but from an ingenuous shame. I was ashamed, Sir, to support upon my legs, what, in my heart, I disapproved. In future, my voice and my heart shall be in unison. I mean, Sir, to vote and speak as an honest, independent, country gentleman. When the present, or any future

future Minister shall in such manner act, as that I can conscientiously support him, he shall have my un-influenced suffrage. When he acts, as upon the present occasion, I think he has acted, against the true interests of his country, he shall ever have in me a determined disinterested enemy. I will vote as I mean to do this evening upon the present question, decidedly against him and his friends."

Lord W—— was heard with great approbation by the anti-ministerial part of the House, and with no less resentment and mortification by the Minister and Mr. Dungarvon. After the division, which was, as usual, on the side of administration, the noble Lord returned home, whither he was attended by his friends, who had distinctly heard him from the gallery. He returned to receive the applauses of those friends; and, for the first time, after a vote in Parliament, to receive the applause of his own approving conscience.

C H A P. LXX.

TRIUMPH OF A WHIG ELECTION.

IT may be justly presumed, that the Minister, and his friend Mr. Dungarvon, retired from the House of Commons, upon the night on which Lord W—— made his recantation, with very different sensations from those of the reclaimed Peer—for reclaimed his Lordship was in the fullest sense of the expression. He was reclaimed from a base submission of himself to the corrupt influence of ministerial talk-masters; and he was reclaimed from an habitual subjection of himself to all the evils and miseries of deep play; in a word, Lord W—— was reclaimed to a love of virtue, private as well as public; to a due sense of the dignity and importance of his character, both as a man and a senator.

It had been well, if a scene so new and so unexpected, had produced congenial effects

effects on the ministerial side of the House. It produced indeed resentment, but it wrought no reform. The Minister was deeply mortified; and Dungarvon, for once in his life, abashed. Their precious scheme, of the success of which they had made themselves so certain, had been frustrated by what they were pleased to term, the recreancy of Lord W——; and, to their ineffable surprise, that recreancy he had himself avowed in the face of a full House of Commons. To complete their mortification, Lord W—— appeared nearly restored to a state of perfect health, and the faculties of his mind, as might be collected from his speech made upon this memorable evening, were such as to give the fairest promise, that Lord W—— would be an acquisition to the opposition side of the House, of somewhat more value than merely a silent vote. They had, however, to console them for the loss of the noble Peer, the reflection, that his colleague, a gentleman of very considerable fortune, and of some estimation for his probity and his talents, unplaced, and unpen-

un-pensioned, made it the sole rule of his political conduct to support the King's Ministers, from his implicit reverence of the royal prerogative. He had early imbibed an opinion, that mankind were so exceedingly depraved as to be utterly incapable of governing themselves; and that, therefore, the more absolutely they were governed, the more proper was such dominion to the degeneracy of their state, and the most likely to keep them in a due subordination. Any administration, therefore, who took sufficient care to restrain the madness of the people, and to raise high the splendour and dignity of the Crown, was sure of having this gentleman's support, both in and out of Parliament. Mr. Bottomly was, in fine, the exact counterpart of what the late Dr. Johnson, of whom he had ever been a great admirer, would have been, had he obtained a seat, which at one time he much coveted, in the House of Commons. His natural interest in the county, in which he had large estates, was considerable. It was in consequence determined, as it was now too apparent,

that Lord W—— would stand in conjunction with Sir Gregory, at the next general election, to find a proper person to join Mr. Bottomly, in opposition to the noble Lord and his new friend. They had indeed much to apprehend from the daily increasing popularity of Sir Gregory Gretton, a popularity to which, as it will be seen, Ministry had themselves contributed, by their manœuvre of appointing him high-sheriff.

The Lent assizes now drew near, and it became necessary to prepare for the occasion. One of the first steps taken by our worthy Baronet was, to give his directions to his under-sheriff. He was a sensible and intelligent man, and accepted, with great satisfaction, the strict charge given him by Sir Gregory, concerning the petit as well as the grand-jury. "I must earnestly intreat you, Sir," said the Baronet, "to take care, that, not only men competent for their property, but for their capability too, in point of understanding, are summoned to serve upon the *petit-jury*. Trial by jury

jury is the glory of our laws; to which, ^{cavellers} ~~cavellers~~ can alone object, that ignorant persons are too often seen to decide upon the lives and property of the subject; indeed, in the latter case, a special jury may be summoned, which somewhat relieves the objection; but in proportion, as life and reputation are, in my estimation, of more importance than our goods or our chattels, I think we can never be too careful into whose hands we deposit this precious, this inestimable right of criminal jurisdiction. I am, therefore, Sir," continued Sir Gregory, in his conference with his under-sheriff, "earnestly to beg, that you summons a sufficient number of respectable freeholders of the county, to serve upon the *petit-jury*—a jury who may have a proper sense of the important trust to which they are appointed—a trust which ^{involves in itself} ~~institutes~~ the great birth-right of an Englishman." The under-sheriff promised an implicit obedience, and he faithfully discharged his commission; of this the Judge of the Assize took notice, and made his acknowledgments to the high-sheriff for so pro-

per an attention to the duties of his office. Another regulation, or rather reform, which our Baronet directed his deputy to see enforced, was a more decent and solemn manner of administering the oath to both the jurymen and evidences. In general, to the great scandal of religion, and not a little to the disgrace of those who preside in our Courts of Justice, oaths are administered in a very careless and irreverent manner. So shameful an abuse, and profanation of an appeal to Heaven, was corrected during the shrievalty of Sir Gregory Gretton, care being taken that a profound silence should be observed by the Court during the time that the proper officer was deliberately administering the oath to the several parties who were to be sworn.

It has been noticed in the preceding volume, that Lord W—— had voluntarily offered himself as foreman of the grand jury, to be appointed by his friend the Baronet, and to attend in the cavalcade which had engaged to
escort

escort him to the county-town. For this purpose, as has been related, Sir Gregory's fast friend, 'Squire Quicksett, had provided himself with a new equipage; and, upon this occasion, agreeably to his declaration, the 'Squire had added a pair of horses, and drove with a set. In the Baronet's train were seen also Dr. Summerfield, Mr. Musgrave, Mr. Adderley, and a long list of our worthy Baronet's friends, who vied with each other in paying him this mark of their regard and attachment; indeed, such was his increased and increasing popularity, that had he not earnestly declined so large an attendance, a great body of the most respectable yeomanry of the county, would on horseback have led the procession. A compliment which, however, he could not prevent their paying him at the summer assizes, a body of upwards of four hundred having preceded the train of carriages which accompanied him to the county-town. As a mark of their disinterested attachment, they had ordered a dinner at their own expence; and it was with some little difficulty that they

they consented to depart from their intention, and to accept the very sumptuous entertainment provided for them by the Baronet, at which presided the superintendant of Sir Gregory's improvements at Hawthorn Dale, Mr. Walter Rosemary.

As the appointing of our good Baronet to the office of high-sheriff had been most insidiously intended, for the express purpose of preventing his being candidate for the representation of the county, a plan which, as we have seen, had been counteracted by the positive refusal of Lord W——'s co-operation with the Minister, that noble Lord now made a point of testifying in the face of the country, as he had recently done in the House of Commons, the most marked indignation for having afforded the Minister just grounds to suppose, that he was mean enough to submit to any yoke he was pleased to impose upon him, and the most perfect attachment to the cause and interest of that man, Sir Gregory Gretton, to whom he imputed the restoration

ation of his affairs; "and what," his Lordship said, "was of infinitely more account—the restoration of himself to a sense of honour, virtue, and the love of his country."

It was under this impression, that Lord W—— had led the procession which graced the train of the worthy Baronet, from Summerfield Castle to the county town. It was under this impression, that he, for the first time in his life, attended the assizes a perfectly independant man. And, it was under this impression, that he now presided as foreman of one of the most respectable grand juries which he had ever seen assembled.

Fortunately for Sir Gregory, one of the best houses in the town was in the occupation of a gentleman who had lately been appointed to a ship in the service of the East India Company by his good offices. He was upon his voyage to China. His lady had insisted, as a small token of her own and her husband's gratitude, that Sir Gregory should
accept

accept the accommodation of their house for the assize week, as she could herself, with the least possible inconvenience, remove to the house of her sister. The favour was accepted, and Lady Gretton was enabled to entertain her friends as commodiously as she could have done at Summerfield Castle. As the high-sheriff's lady she gave universal satisfaction; and, if any thing could add to Sir Gregory's popularity, the affable and gracious manners of Lady Gretton, and the lovely Eleonora, would have increased it. Her table was, as usual, elegant and magnificent; and, with the assistance of her friend, Mrs. Summerfield, she did the honours of *it*, and sustained the fatigues of the assize week, with great credit both to herself and her husband.

As every thing during the week had been conducted with a splendour truly worthy of the affluent fortune of our good Baronet, the young ladies of the town had flattered themselves with the hopes of a ball upon the occasion. But to these expectations Sir Gregory urged
this

this very reasonable objection: "Can we, with any degree of propriety, or, indeed with a safe conscience, enjoy the festivity of a dance, when certain miserable creatures have been, perhaps, capitally convicted, and are sentenced to die? Can I rejoice when others have cause to mourn? Can I repair to the house of joy and laughter when a brother or a sister, for such they are, notwithstanding their crimes, stand trembling upon the verge of eternity?" The young folks acknowledged their error; they were the more easily convinced, as they were abundantly satisfied, that the voice of humanity, not any considerations of expence, weighed with Sir Gregory in refusing them the gratification—a gratification he would have been otherwise most happy to have indulged; as a convincing proof of which, and to remove every doubt of his being influenced by any motives of a pecuniary nature, the high-sheriff sent to the county jail a purse of one hundred guineas, which was more than equivalent to what a public ball might have amounted to,

to be applied to the relief of the prisoners, according to the discretion of the keeper of the prison, who was a person distinguished for his humanity. Sir Gregory, at the same time, gave the ladies of the town an assurance, which Lady Gretton confirmed to them in the name of herself and her daughter, that should the summer assizes prove a maiden one, i. e. should there be no capital convict, Lady Gretton would be a petitioner to the Mayor for the use of the Town-hall, in which she would, with the greatest pleasure, give them a dance and a supper, at which she would herself preside as wife of their high-sheriff.

It is to be noted, that Sir Gregory, during the assize week, in the house with which he had been accommodated by the East India Captain's lady, kept an open table, without any distinction of party: it was served in a style somewhat beyond elegance: it might justly be termed magnificent; for, added to his own French horns and clarionets, he had the town band of music, which constantly

ly played during the hours of dinner and supper. His horns and clarionets were so charming an accompaniment to the trumpets, which are used to announce the approach of the Judges to, and return from the Courts, that, at their request, they constantly played before them during the continuance of the assize. To which was added another compliment, not less acceptable, from Sir Gregory; he furnished their Lordship's table, during the week every day, with the choicest productions of the East.

On the day upon which, according to established custom, the grand jury entertain the high-sheriff, it was remarked, somewhat invidiously, by Mr. Bottomly, my Lord W——'s colleague, that the splendid style, both in table and equipage, of the present sheriff, would be no small disadvantage to most of his successors; adding, that if he had not himself served the office, or been placed in a situation to exempt him from serving it, he should not think himself greatly indebted to Sir Gregory Gretton for set-

ting the example of an expence superior to what the county had ever witnessed. Sir Gregory thought proper to reply to it, and to apologise to the gentlemen then assembled, in vindication of his conduct.

“He said,” addressing himself principally to Mr. Bottomly, who had made the observation, “that he was happy in having an opportunity, which, indeed, he should himself have sought, had it not been thus forced upon him, of making some apology to the company for having served the office of sheriff somewhat more expensively than he believed, in general, had been customary. Officially speaking, I am free to confess myself censurable; personally, I think not so. And here it is I wish to draw the line of distinction. Had I come regularly, that is, in due rotation into the office—had it not, in other words, been obtruded upon me, to serve a very sinister purpose, I should have held it, as a kind of honourable incumbency, for the sake of my successors, to have made not even such a parade as my fortunes might have justified.”

fied. For their sakes I would have kept in the back, rather than the fore-ground of the picture. But the situation in which, not through my own choice, I have been placed, renders such a delicacy, I trust, no longer necessary. That some partial friends had thought, perhaps, too favourably of me, in the case of a certain event taking place, which, I bless God, did not take place, is no longer a secret. I was appointed, as Lord W—— can testify, to the office of sheriff, in order to defeat any expectation I might have formed of succeeding his Lordship in the representation of the county. I am proud to say, I had formed an expectation; and I persist upon, I hope, better grounds of forming an expectation, at the next general election, in close union with my friend Lord W——, of representing this very respectable county. I am then to beg, Gentlemen, to consider me, not merely as their sheriff, but a candidate for their future favour. That my fortunes are greatly above mediocrity I can safely, thank God, I am not ashamed to say—they have been honourably acquired;

quired; and they shall be liberally, not lavishly expended. An instance may, perhaps, never again occur of any future sheriff's appearing exactly under the same predicament in which I appear; if there should, I can only say, the gentleman has my cordial good wishes, that he may meet with a spirit congenial to that of Lord W——'s, to assist him in counter-acting the machinations of a Minister, and that he may possess a spirit and fortune superior to mine—such a spirit and ample a fortune as may enable him, as I hope mine may me, eventually to illustrate the poet's adage."

—————" *Nec lex est ^{superior} ~~ius~~ ulla*
" Quam necis artifices arte perire sua."

The high-sheriff's apology, as he was pleased to term it, except by some few staunch ministerialists, was received with the marked approbation of a large and very respectable company, but it seemed to give peculiar delight to Lord W——, who, as soon as the Baronet sat down, spoke to the following effect:

He

He said, "he could bear testimony, that the office which his friend supported with so true a lustre, was, to use Sir Gregory's own expression, obtruded upon him; and, to his certain knowledge, for he was to have been made an instrument in the business, was obtruded upon him, as hostile to a plan the Baronet and his friends had formed, of offering his services to the county, upon the contingency," said Lord W——, "of my death. The office was to have operated to an entire preclusion of his hopes, at length, for the present. I consider it as the first pride of my life, to have withstood the temptation thrown out to allure me to co-operate with this dishonourable plan—a plan which carries upon the face of it, its fabricator.—I will not hurt the feelings of my honourable colleague, by naming the person to whom I allude, because I know he entertains a certain respect for him, as a firm supporter of the King's Ministers; but he will pardon me, that I add, I am most happy that the above gentleman is no longer upon the list of my acquaintance, neither shall I
ever

ever envy my colleague for his giving him a still higher character—the title of friend. I thank my stars he is no longer one of mine.” Lord W—— concluded, and the honest ‘Squire Quicksett, who was already upon his legs, addressed the company.

He told them, “that though he would not pretend to say, that he knew quite so much about the royal prerogative, as a certain gentleman, yet concerning the prerogatives of a county high-sheriff he had a better title to speak, for he had himself served the office—he had served it in a stile proper for a man of his fortune to serve it. His worthy friend, Sir Gregory, had done the same; and, for my part, instead of feeling any envy at the superior figure made by the present sheriff, I give him great credit for it; it does himself, it does the county honour: and,” he continued, “with deference to the superior judgment of Lord W——’s colleague, the prerogative gentry ought to feel themselves under obligations to our worthy sheriff, for the
King’s

King's dignity, some part of which I have understood to rest upon the high-sheriff's shoulders, was never more splendidly, or more honourably supported. And, I have no doubt in having my motion supported, that Sir Gregory Gretton do receive the thanks of the grand jury, and a numerous company of gentlemen, this day assembled to dine with the grand jury, for having so ably, and with so much dignity, discharged the office of high-sheriff." The motion was seconded by Dr. Summerfield; and, though perhaps not perfectly agreeable to some few individuals of the company, was carried without a dissentient voice. "Bravo!" whispered the young Edmund, who had been seated between his uncle and the Squire; "Lord W——, and Sir Gregory, will be our members in spite of all ministry can do against them." His Lordship's ears caught the sound, and his eyes sparkled with delight.

Sir Gregory very respectfully returned the company his most cordial acknow-

ledgments for the honour they had done him in their notice of his little services ; and the company broke up in great good humour : even Mr. Bottomly himself confessing, that what had escaped him, concerning future sheriff's, was spoken rather petulantly, and had been very properly replied to by the worthy Baronet."

"And pray, Edmund," said Eleonora, when the young gentleman returned to Lady Gretton's, after dining with the grand jury ; "pray," said she, "Edmund, were there any other young gentlemen, no older than yourself, at table, when, as I heard, you cried *bravo!* after Mr. Quicksett had moved the thanks of the meeting to Papa?" He told her, "there were not ; neither should he have presumed to have dined with the company, but at the express desire of Lord W——, and with the consent and approbation of his uncle, Dr. Summerfield. He added, that great notice had been taken of the decent solemnity with which Mr. Adamson had said grace, both before and after dinner." "His grace then," said Lady Anne

Anne W——, who had constantly attended Lady Gretton during the week, “was consonant to his assize sermon; it was,” observed her Ladyship, “most excellent: the subject of it was ‘Solomon’s famous decision concerning the disputed child.’ The high-sheriff’s chaplain did great honour both to himself and Sir Gregory.” “The Judges, I was informed,” observed Mrs. Musgrave, “took great notice of the discourse; the subject,” they said, “was new, and very ably and ingeniously discussed.”



C H A P. LXXI.

IT has been stated, that the motion of thanks to the high-sheriff had been carried without a dissentient voice.—There were, however, some few unassenting minds to the compliment. Of these, the most distinguished was, a gentleman of the name of Sir *Phelim O'Flimzy*.—Sir Phelim had, for some time past, contemplated our good Baronet with no moderate degree of envy. The blaze with which he had ~~now~~ appeared as high-sheriff of the county, had now completed it. His own vanity, which was the leading feature in Sir Phelim's character, was sensibly piqued. He had ridiculously entertained an idea, that Sir Gregory, in the splendid hospitality of his table, and in the general urbanity of his own, and Lady Gretton's manners, meant to outshine, or, even to eclipse Lady O'Flimzy, and himself, in the eyes of a county in which they wished to be the principal figures. This they could
neither

neither of them brook with any degree of patience ; and, as their fortunes could well bear competition of expence, they, with an unison of sentiment, adopted the most preposterous plan imaginable of convincing the county, that dazzled as it had been by the superb appearance of our worthy Baronet, in his mode of serving the office of high-sheriff, Sir Phelim would contrive to be still more brilliant, should government do him the honour of conferring upon him the same high office. Full of the idea, the morning after the grand jury dinner, Sir Phelim waited privately upon Mr. Bottomly. He told him, " he came to propose a plan to him, by which they might perfectly, and," as he added, " effectually cut the comb of this same princely nabob. I have," continued Sir Phelim, " taken the advice of Lady O'Flimzy upon the matter. You know," said he, " Mr. Bottomly, I always consult *Bell*—no one understands high life better than *Bell*. We have, as you may have heard, but one idea between us—and that idea is, *figure and expence*. Nobody understands

stands figure better than *Bell*; and, I think, I know pretty well the true sense of expence. I have lived in great expence all my life—I love expence, so does *Bell*. In one word, if your friend, the Minister, has no objection to accept me next year as high-sheriff, *Bell* and I will contrive between us to shew the county, that there are others, besides this upstart nabob, and his East Indian wife, that can entertain Judges, and jurymen, both grand and little, in as good a style, perhaps somewhat better, than himself. I am sure *Bell* and myself have visited more foreign Courts than ever they have done, and have been present at grander spectacles than either Sir Gregory or Lady Gretton: we made the tour, *Bell* and myself, of the northern Courts, on purpose to acquire a true notion of the Court gala, and to give balls in the Empress of Russia and King of Sweden's very first style; we understand these things pretty well, and we are at your service, if you think proper to accept us; *Bell* shall blaze away in all her own and my family jewels—we'll have gold plated harness,

harness, with blue morocco traces, for our carriage, and a double set of strawberry roans from Flanders, with tails and manes that shall sweep the ground as they paw and prance along. What think you, Mr. Bottomly? has our plan the honour of your approbation?" Mr. Bottomly replied, with his usual gravity and caution, "that Sir Phelim's plan merited due consideration, and he would not fail to make the Minister acquainted with it; that he would recommend to Sir Phelim, and his lady, to keep their intention a profound secret; that, if his design became generally known, those who were ever ready to turn into ridicule any schemes the full jett of which they did not readily comprehend, might, perhaps, caricature the project, and, in a great measure, destroy the whole effect intended by you." Sir Phelim promised both for himself and Lady O'Flimzy. He should, as it will be seen, have contented himself with promising secrecy in his own person only, and not rashly have committed himself on the part of so very fine a vessel for secret keeping, as he
well

well knew, from numberless proofs of her garrulity, was the lady for whose confidence he had thus hastily engaged.

Sir Phelim O'Flimzy having thus introduced himself to the reader's notice, by a proposition no less singular than characteristic of the qualities of this vain and fantastic personage, it may be proper a little at large to enter upon a discussion of some of the leading features which so peculiarly qualified Sir Phelim for the husband of Lady O'Flimzy, and her Ladyship for the wife of Sir Phelim.

Know then, gentle and courteous reader, that Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton were not more remarkable for the reality, than were Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy for the semblance of a very splendid hospitality. They gave grand dinners, and made very often magnificent balls, but there was always a something wanting, which was certain of being found at an entertainment given by Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton. This was a cordial and hearty reception of
their

their guests, and an engaging and unremitting attention to them during the whole time of their continuance in the assembly; whereas, in the numerous, and, indeed, sumptuous fêtes, to which very numerous parties were invited by Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy, it was but too apparent, that the gratification of their own vanity had been the sole, at least, the principal inducement to this display of expence. The company, unless they were the especial favourites of Sir Phelim and her Ladyship, were left to take what care they could of themselves, and to amuse themselves in the best manner they might fancy, with very little notice taken of them by the master or the lady of the feast; whereas, upon Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton's plan of entertaining their guests, no one was over-looked, each was carefully and benevolently attended to, there was nothing like hurry and disorder, but all was regular and decorous; the consequence was, that at Sir Phelim's the company for ever broke up dissatisfied and disappointed; at Sir Gregory's it was

never so, the company retired with the same ^{complaisant} joy with which they had assembled: in one word, Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy were the shadows of which Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton were the substance.



C H A P. LXXII.

ANY thing more ridiculous than this plan of Sir Phelim's can scarcely well be imagined; but however ridiculous, it was eagerly adopted by the Minister and his friends. Sorely had they been disappointed in the hopes they had formed of Lord W——'s acquiescence in their schemes. Sorely had they been traversed by his Lordship's unequivocal rejection of them. In this state, therefore, of chagrin and disappointment, they eagerly caught at any thing that seemed to administer any distant consolation; and it was some kind of consolation to know, that a gentleman stood ready, as soon as Sir Gregory's year should have expired, who was not only ready to accept, but who sought the office of high-sheriff, with the avowed view of eclipsing the worthy Baronet, and of serving the office in a style of expence still greater than Sir Gregory Gretton, or any one that ever preceded him,

him, or should at any future period fill that office. Of little or no consequence was it to the Minister, or his friends, however absurdly, or ostentatiously, Sir Phelim or Lady O'Flimzy might conduct themselves, so there might exist a shadow of hope, to counteract the rising popularity of the worthy Baronet. The character of both, for inordinate vanity, and a taste of expence, was already well established. They had, therefore, every reason to imagine, that however they might expose themselves, the plan seemed not ill-calculated, at least, to diminish the eclat of Sir Gregory Gretton's munificence; and they were not without hopes that Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy might appear the ensuing year in a style of so much blaze and splendour, as might obliterate and eface from the public mind, all memory of Sir Gregory Gretton's superb hospitality. Little was it imagined by Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, that what had been the result of the most exalted and liberal humanity, could have excited so much envy in the malignant minds of Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy,

O'Flinzy. Their own hearts reproached them not with being influenced by any mean or selfish intentions, therefore they could not have suspected that so very weak and poor a plan had been adopted to dissipate any popularity they might have been supposed to acquire. Leaving the Minister, and his friend, Mr. Bottomly, together with Sir *Phelim* and *Lady O'Flinzy*, to the contemplation of the curious plan they had devised for the mortification of our good Baronet, we willingly attend Sir Gregory and his respectable suite, from the county-town, back again to his own hospitable mansion of *Summerfield-Castle*, where he and Lady Gretton continued to be the delight and admiration of a very extensive neighbourhood.



C H A P. LXXIII.

IT has been, I believe, already stated, that Mr. Adderley, though he had discontinued giving lessons in dancing and music in any other families, yet had consented to superintend Miss Gretton and young Summerfield in their acquisitions of those polite accomplishments.— He had now also begun, with the consent and approbation of Dr. Summerfield, to instruct our young Edmund in the manly and healthy exercise of fencing, an exercise to which our young gentleman gave the greatest attention, and in which he very soon became, in a very eminent degree, expert. His progress in his classical studies had been already such as to give his uncle the most complete satisfaction, insomuch, that he very readily consented to the young gentleman's request of permitting Mr. Adderley to instruct him in the science of defence. “I choose to term it, my dear Edmund,” the uncle would say, “*defence,*

"*defence*, as I hope in your hands it will never be made any thing else." "To fence well," Dr. Summerfield would add, "is a proper accomplishment for a gentleman; but to practice fencing for the purposes of quarrelling, is to pervert it, and to render the person so skilled, pernicious to himself, and, perhaps, so to all who know him."

It being now the Midsummer recess, and the young Seldon's being upon a visit at the Castle, Lord W—— solicited the consent of Sir Gregory Gretton and Dr. Summerfield that he might be permitted to entertain the young Edmund, and his young friends, the Seldons, with a cricket and cudgelling match at the Summerfield Arms. The day was to commence with a cricket match, and to terminate with a cudgell-playing. Mr. Adderley was to preside at each, and Humphry Clagget the clerk, as he was excellent at both those sports, was now in the very zenith of his glory. And honest Humphry was heard to declare, "that the young 'Squire, next to Mr. Adder-

Adderley and himself, was the best cricket player, and the best cudgell player, of any person in this or the adjoining parishes. The Master Seldon's," he would say, "do not handle a ball badly, but they are nothing to compare to Master Edmund; and, at single-stick, I'd take young 'Squire against any young lad of his age in England, Ireland, or Scotland." Lord W——, and his sister, Lady Anne, who were present upon the occasion, in other words, who were spectators of the cricket match upon Summerfield Green, were delighted with the activity and skill displayed by Edmund in the course of the game: but, when the cudgell playing commenced, the ladies withdrew themselves from being present at the spectacle. They were of opinion, that it was incompatible with the delicacy of their sex, to be spectators of a contest, which not unfrequently terminated in bloodshed. And however honest Humphry might disregard a broken head, or a severe blow upon his arms or legs, the ladies declared they could not reconcile it to their ideas of humanity, or even to any ideas of proper

proper civilization: and, notwithstanding that Humphry Clagget would exclaim, "God bless you, my dear ladies!" at the same time shewing them his head, "though it was a small matter broke, yet its very little, or at all, the worse, and I am ready to take another bout with any man in the country, except my Master Adderley." As to my Lord W——, who had been in his youth himself a very excellent back-sword player, he enjoyed the diversion with the highest relish; and he very loudly extolled the prowess and dexterity of his young kinsman, Edmund. But while these things were passing upon the green of the castle, the ladies of the parsonage, and Sir Gregory's, were contriving, with the assistance of Mr. Rosemary, to surprise the gentlemen with a very different spectacle. Mr. Rosemary, who had effectually recovered Lord W—— from his paralytic complaint, was now engaged to exhibit at the castle a course of electrical experiments. It was an exhibition more congenial to the gentle taste of Lady Anne W——, Lady Gretton, and

the other ladies, than either the sport of cricket, or the ruder exercise of cudgel-playing. At this exhibition the ladies, as well as the gentlemen, attended ; and they gave honest Walter great laud for the consummate skill which he displayed in these amusing and instructive lectures. In the performing of these lectures Mr. Rosemary was the more expert, as he was himself the fabricator of every machine made use of upon the occasion, and, indeed, of the whole apparatus. The little Eleonora was delighted with the ingenious experiments of our philosopher ; and even the venerable Mrs. Williamson, and the other ladies, who were visitors at the Castle, expressed the highest approbation of the experiments performed by this rural philosopher. But if the company were entertained with the philosophical exhibitions of Mr. Walter Rosemary, Mr. Rosemary was made no less happy by the approbation of so splendid a company ; to which may be added, that he was not a little elated with the idea of having recovered Lord W—— from his paralytic affection, Lord W——

W—— being now somewhat more than in a state of convalescence, for he found himself restored to a state of as good health as he had been before the attack.

The exhibition concluded with a family concert of music, in which Mr. Adderley's scholars. Eleonora and Edmund, were now capable to perform a part; 'tis sufficient to say, that each of them did great credit to their excellent instructor, Mr. Adderley. They each gave much satisfaction to every individual of the party assembled at the Castle, none of whom expressed more delight than did the venerable Mrs. Williamson.



CHAP. LXXIV.

IT had become a matter of general notoriety, that Sir Phelim O'Flinzy had offered himself to the Minister to serve the office of high-sheriff the ensuing year, in order, if possible, to emulate the magnificence of the present sheriff. The friends of Sir Gregory were, therefore, determined to shew this proud fantastic partizan of the Minister, how firmly they were attached to the cause and interest of our worthy nabob, and the house of Summerfield, for it was difficult to say which was the more popular character, Sir Gregory, or Dr. Summerfield. In order, therefore, to shew in the most convincing manner possible, their zeal for the interest of the Castle and the Parsonage, it was determined, at the summer assizes, that the joint friends to the cause of liberty and patriotism should assemble themselves at the castle, in order to proceed in solemn cavalcade to the County-hall. The care of the whole arrangement

ment was committed to Mr. Musgrave and the honest Squire Quicksett, who martialled this body of the most respectable and numerous yeomanry, that was ever assembled in honour of a high-sheriff, to the county-town. The cavalcade, at his own express desire, was again headed by Lord W——, who had himself provided a very excellent band of music, in addition to the horns and clarionets of Sir Gregory Gretton: and this band, in honour of Lady Gretton's hunt, were habited in blue and buff, very elegantly and richly laced with silver. And so great was the joint popularity of the two houses of Summerfield and Gretton, that it was computed that upwards of fifteen hundred independent freeholders attended the high-sheriff upon this occasion, and were entertained in a very princely manner, by Sir Gregory, at the different public houses in the county-town. And it was remarkable, that so careful were Sir Gregory's friends to avoid every appearance of riot or disorder, that though the numbers which attended him upon this occasion were un-

unusually great, yet was there scarcely a single instance of riot or intoxication. At each of the public houses a chairman presided at the head of the table, who, in honour of Sir Gregory Gretton, wore upon that day around their hats a label, upon which was inscribed, in golden characters, these words, "Sir Gregory Gretton the yeoman's friend." After which followed the words, "Order and Decency."

It may be remembered, that Lady Gretton stood pledged to give the young people a ball, should the assize prove a maiden one. Upon such an occasion Sir Gregory and her Ladyship would observe, far from sporting with the feelings of our fellow creatures, a county-ball seems to be a triumph in honour of the laws of our country; for in the case of a maiden assize, where no criminal is condemned to death, it may afford a reasonable cause for exhilaration, observed her Ladyship, that the peace and order of society had been so little disturbed, and that no outrage had been committed of which

which death is appointed the penalty. But Sir Gregory, whose benevolence was as extensive as his taste was liberal and magnificent, took care that the festivity should not be confined to the company assembled in the Court-hall. He sent to the prison a very noble donation of money, which, at the same time that it afforded an entertainment to every unhappy prisoner, of whatever denomination, was sufficient to release from their confinement many an unhappy being who had been thrown into prison from an inability to pay a small sum of money: these were all liberated from imprisonment, and their fees discharged. The precise sum is not here exactly specified, as Sir Gregory strictly charged the worthy keeper of the prison not to make public the sum which he thought proper to send, but it was supposed to be considerable. It could not, however, escape the notice of the worthy 'Squire Quickfett, who, it was observed, at the grand jury dinner, accosted, in his pleasant and familiar manner, Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, giving him, at the same time, a hearty
flap

flap upon the shoulder: "In balls and entertainments we understand, Baronet, that you intend to rival Sir Gregory; you will now have an opportunity of endeavouring to out do him in his charities: but let me tell you, Sir Phelim, your purse must be pretty weighty if your good deeds keep in exact unison with the good deeds of Sir Gregory." Sir Phelim was about to reply, but he was restrained by his friend Mr. Bottomly. Sir Gregory putting an effectual stop to any further conversation on the subject, by saying to the honest Squire, "Spare me, my dear friend, and suffer Sir Phelim to take his own course."



C H A P. LXXV.

LADY Gretton's ball, as might be expected, was very numerously attended; her Ladyship and Mrs. Summerfield being no less popular than were their respective husbands. In this company was seen the venerable Mrs. Williamson, who, to shew her regard for her truly respectable nephew, declared she would, for the last time of her life, make one great exertion, by presenting her antiquated figure, as she called it, at Lady Gretton's ball. "But," continued the good old lady, "I have a farther inducement—the hopes of seeing my dear Eleonora dance her first minuet in public with young Edmund Summerfield." In these hopes the good old lady was not disappointed, Edmund being permitted to dance a minuet with the blooming Eleonora. And it was remarked by all the company, that they did infinite credit to Mr. Adderley's instructions, being the best dancers at their time of life that

ever appeared at a country assembly.—It is sufficient to say, that the venerable Mrs. Williamson was not the least delighted person at the assembly. But to express the raptures displayed by Edmund, by being permitted to have the hand of Miss Gretton for the evening, is not to be described.—Indeed the joy of this young couple was mutual; and it was the general remark of all who beheld them upon this occasion, that in Edmund Summerfield Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton contemplated the future husband of Eleonora; and the Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield beheld in Eleonora Gretton, the future wife of Edmund Summerfield. A prevailing pre-sentiment which none seemed more highly to enjoy than Lord W—— and Lady Anne, his sister, as his Lordship had, without any reserve, already declared to all his friends, that he intended Edmund Summerfield for the heir of his estates.

C H A P. LXXVI.

A SUFFICIENT time having now elapsed for the Maraboo of Senegal to put in practice his intention of converting his African subjects to Christianity, and of bringing them into a state of civilization. It becomes now necessary to make known to the reader, that a vessel had just arrived from Senegal, freighted, by the African Prince, with the produce of his country, and consigned to Mr. Simpson. The cargo was exceedingly valuable, consisting of elephant's teeth, gum Senegal, gam-wood, a considerable quantity of sugar, the produce of that country, a quantity of Indian matting, together with some ostrich's feathers, in addition to which was a magnificent set of topazes addressed to Lady Gretton, part of which were intended as a present to herself, and the other to Eleonora. This splendid present, together with other productions of the country, was accompanied by letters from the Maraboo

himself, his lady, and Mr. Devaynes.— These letters concurred in bearing testimony to the general facility with which Christianity and a spirit of civilization had been introduced in Senegal. These letters announced that several churches had already been erected, and that several priests of the country had already been ordained, and were in the exercise of their religious functions, power having been granted by the hierarchy of England to Mr. Devaynes for this purpose, he having himself been appointed the first African bishop, an appointment which he had received since his residence in the country. A variety of improvements had been made in the agriculture of the country, the cultivation of which, and the sugar cane, kept pace with that of rice and cotton. And such was the ardour with which the sable subjects of the Maraboo adopted the various plans suggested to them by the Maraboo's excellent consort, and the worthy bishop, Mr. Devaynes, that there was every reasonable prospect for expecting, that in a few years that quarter of Africa would
rival

rival almost any part of the world in its commercial improvements; and the lady of the Maraboo expressed herself, as well as the letters written by the Maraboo himself, in the highest degree satisfied with the behaviour of their subjects, who, on their part, according to the good Bishop Devayne's testimony, were almost idolized by persons of all ranks on account of the mildness of their rule, and the tendency of their administration to render a whole people great and happy. These letters also announced that the Maraboo's consort had presented him with a son and heir, which had been christened by the joint names of Gregory Edmund, in honour, as the Maraboo expressed himself in his letter, of his revered friends of Summerfield Castle and Parsonage. These letters gave also a very favourable account of the climate, which, though within the tropic, and consequently as warm as the East Indies, was represented nevertheless as being remarkably healthy, the air and water of the country being to the last degree salubrious. These letters also did not
omit

omit to remind those to whom they were addressed, that they looked forward with great satisfaction towards the completion of the period which they had assigned for their visit to England, a visit which, if it pleased God to continue their health, it was their full intention to make. It ought to be noticed that these letters also mentioned, that the musicians which the Maraboo took out with him, had been remarkably successful in instructing many of his subjects to play upon the French-horns and clarionets, insomuch, that upon the river Senegal, parties might now be frequently seen sailing up and down upon that noble river to the sound of French-horns and clarionets.



C H A P. LXXVII.

THE various attempts made by the Minister, and his friends, to practice upon Lord W——, having failed of success, it was resolved, as their only remaining hope, to give all the weight of their influence to Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, who, in order to give him the more consequence in the opinions of the freeholders, was decorated with the ribbon and order of St. Patrick; in addition to which he was promised to be made an Irish baron, should he succeed in his contest for the county: an intelligence which was communicated to him by the immaculate Mr. Dungarvon. A promise which operated not a little to stimulate Lady O'Flimzy to keep him firm to his purpose of serving the office of high-sheriff, in order to evince to their ministerial friends, how infinitely they could exceed Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton in their manner of sustaining that high dignity.

About

About this time an incident occurred which, if any thing had been wanting to conduce to the popularity of Sir Gregory Gretton's character, would have served completely to establish it. Our worthy nabob had been one morning taking a survey of his improvements at Hawthorn-dale, and was returning home to the Castle, when his carriage was suddenly attacked by a single highwayman. The highwayman was apparently about thirty years of age, and of a very gentlemanly deportment. Sir Gregory very readily surrendered to him his purse, at the same time offering him his watch, but he was not a little surprised, at being told by the highwayman, that his purse and his watch were too inconsiderable for him to pay any attention to, what he was to demand of him, was the fifteen hundred pounds he had that morning received of Mr. Musgrave." "It is most true," said our worthy nabob, "I have this morning, with no small reluctance, been constrained to accept the identical sum you specify, and here it is, if you
insist

insist upon it, in the carriage, at your service; but indeed young man you seem designed for better purposes than the very dishonourable life you have adopted; there is something in your appearance that induces me to offer you my services in a more essential way, than the wresting from me this sum of money: you, I believe, know my character, though, for the present, I know very little of your's. I should be not sorry to have a second opportunity of meeting you, and, if you can confide in me, that no inconvenience shall arise to you from the interview, the scene of our next meeting shall be this day fortnight, at the St. Alban's Tavern in London." "The honour of Sir Gregory Gretton," returned the highwayman, is a point so well established, that I have not the least hesitation in giving him my promise, that exactly at eight o'clock in the evening of this day fortnight, I will have the honour of waiting upon him at the St. Alban's Tavern." The highwayman, at the same moment, received the fifteen hundred pounds, made his bow, and galloped off.

Other business, relative to his East India transactions, having, at that time, occasioned him to take a journey to London, our worthy nabob recollected his appointment, at the St. Alban's Tavern, with the highwayman. He had that day been engaged to dine with a noble Lord of high military rank and character. When the rest of the company were withdrawn, Sir Gregory mentioned his engagement for the evening with the highwayman. "And do you really believe, Sir Gregory," returned his Lordship, "that a man, who by depriving you of so large a sum of money has placed his life in your hands, will be true to his appointment?" "I engage for him," returned Sir Gregory, "and, to remove every doubt that your Lordship may entertain of the highwayman's being a man of honour, however he may in this single instance of robbery departed from it, if your Lordship on your side will promise secrecy, you have my consent to be of the party; and you must pledge your honour, should the gentleman, for such I am sure he is, chance to be of
your

your Lordship's acquaintance, he must not be suffered to entertain the most distant idea that I have made your Lordship acquainted with the transaction concerning the highway robbery." The noble Earl agreed to the conditions, and they adjourned to the tavern.

Within five minutes of the appointed hour of eight the military peer drew forth his watch, "and now," says he, "Sir Gregory, what are your greatest odds that the highwayman keeps his appointment?" "Five hundred guineas to fifty, my Lord, that the gentleman comes." At that instant the clock struck eight, and a waiter entered the room, saying, "that a gentleman enquired for Sir Gregory Gretton." He was immediately followed by the person he had thus announced. After spending together a very pleasant and cheerful evening, the highwayman, who, by the cockade in his hat, appeared to be a military character, took his leave. "Well," said he to my Lord, "what do you think of my friend? is not he a noble fellow?" "And what

will you likewise think of me," replied his Lordship, "for my forbearance of any expression of surprise at the gentleman's entering the room? The highwayman, for whose sake you have thus interested yourself, is an officer in my own regiment; his only foible is that of being too fond of deep play, which has, I presume, been the occasion of the very extraordinary effort which introduced him to your acquaintance. I will take care that his commission shall be disposed of, and the money applied to your use."

"I must beg your pardon," replied our worthy nabob; "so far from any wish of restitution, I shall very willingly make the Captain a present of the sum of money he has taken from me, if he resolves from this moment to abandon his love of play, and to devote himself seriously to the duties of his profession."

The military Peer was astonished with this striking instance of the munificence of Sir Gregory Gretton, that he not only pledged himself to be his security that the Captain should never again engage in deep play, in addition to which, he

pro-

promised to give the Captain his patronage in the way of his profession. This promise his Lordship sacredly performed, and the gentleman, if he be still living, is a field officer in the British army.



C H A P. LXXVIII.

WHILE our worthy nabob was thus rising in fame and popularity, by every day giving some fresh proof of a spirit of the most exalted benignity, his avowed rival and competitor, Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, was contriving by every dirty means to depreciate his reputation. He gave to every company into which he came, a malignant turn to the affair of the highwayman; declaring, that in his estimation, it was little better than a compounding of felony; and, at the same time, not forbearing to insinuate, that Sir Gregory had actually been reimbursed the sum of which he had been robbed. "He might," added he, with a horrible sarcastic grin, "have another reason for not prosecuting the culprit, as in case of conviction it might have been his duty as sheriff to have attended the execution. For my own part, so sacredly," he continued, "do I hold the laws of my country, that rather than I would see them violated,

violated, I would, in case I could procure no deputy to perform the office, act as the executioner of the law myself, rather than a violation of the law should go unpunished." But however widely he might differ from Sir Gregory Gretton in his ideas of public justice, he, and Lady O'Flimzy, endeavoured to court popularity by imitating, as closely as they could, the plan of elegant convivial hospitality, which so remarkably distinguished the worthy inhabitants of Summerfield Castle. But herein consisted the essential difference of the entertainments given by Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, and those given by Sir Gregory Gretton, at the one were seen only the independent gentry and yeomanry of the county; at the other, the venal sycophants and slavish dependants upon a Minister. And yet so strongly are mankind governed by a sordid attachment to their interest, that Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, as soon as it was publicly known that he intended, at the next general election to join the tory candidate, Mr. Bottomly, every dependent upon government declared himself in his favour,

vour, and it was already matter of general notoriety, that the whole weight of *Treasury influence*, was to be exerted to serve this precious pair of political friends.

Sir Phelim had already equipped himself with a complete set of long tail'd Flanders mares, which he kept ready to exhibit, most sumptuously caparisoned, so soon as the chosen moment should arrive when he should be called upon to attend my Lords the Judges. He had already given two very magnificent turtle dinners, and he was preparing to give a fête-champetre, to which he had invited all the ministerial part of the county.

As all hopes whatever had failed of drawing off Lord W—— from Sir Gregory Gretton's interest, open war had been declared, and a canvass for the county had commenced in favour of Mr. Bottomly and Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, as joint candidates on the court side against Lord W—— and Sir Gregory Gretton, the popular candidates at the next general

ral election. It is sufficient to say, that those who declared for liberty and independence, to a man, joined the cause of Lord W—— and Sir Gregory Gretton.

And herein was to be seen the difference between volunteers in the support of a righteous cause, and those who were forced into the service merely as tools of ministerial interest. The first description of men not only appeared at the entertainments given by the worthy nabob, but they also gave dinners and entertainments in support of the cause they had undertaken to espouse. Whereas, on the other hand, no festive meetings whatever were given by the friends of Sir Phelim O'Flimzy; Mr. Dungarvon having, as he expressed himself, consigned the whole dead weight of the matter to the shoulders of Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, only, with such abatement of the burden as Mr. Bottomly might voluntarily take upon himself.

C H A P. LXXIX.

IT has been I believe, already observed, that the mornings at the Parsonage of our young Edmund were usually employed in philosophical or classical studies, under the joint tuition of Dr. Summerfield and Mr. Adamson. Our young gentleman, and his tutors, were thus engaged, when they were interrupted by a visit from Lord W——, and the honest 'Squire Quicksett. "We are come," said his Lordship, "young Gentleman, to break in upon your studies; and I am not without hopes, that your good uncle, and Mr. Adamson, will consent to a proposition that I have to make, that this day be entirely devoted to pleasure and amusement, I have engaged," continued his Lordship, "honest Humphry Clagget, and a party of cricket players from Summerfield, to meet an equal number at Myrtle Grove. Sir Gregory Gretton's family have done me the honour to promise to be of the party, and we please ourselves

ourselves with the thoughts of passing a very pleasant and agreeable day." As the business of the morning had not been quite completed, Dr. Summerfield was observed to hesitate, upon which, the honest 'Squire entering upon the scene, "Odds, heartlikins! my good neighbour, I know you'll not refuse his Lordship? The philosopher of Hawthorne Dale has so completely restored his Lordship, that we are all in high spirits upon the occasion; and so resolved is his Lordship to give Sir Phelim O'Flimzy the meeting at the next general election, that we only have to regret that the day of battle is so far distant: for my own part, I'd bet half I am worth in the world, that we beat Sir Phelim and his tory friend hollow, that is, as one may say, out of the world, if we do, my good neighbour, but resolve to keep it up; that is, as one may say, to strike while the iron is hot; and, to use a common country expression, 'not to lose a hog for a halfpenny-worth of tar.' Come, come, neighbour Summerfield, you must not say nay to this motion, we are all to meet to day at his Lordship's,

and we mean to make a jolly day of it; my Dame, and her girls, and the Mulgrave's, and, in short, all the country have engaged to be at his Lordship's at Myrtle Grove; And even that divine old Duchess, Mrs. Williamson, together with Lady Gretton, and her charming daughter, have promised his Lordship and Lady Anne their company at the Grove; and, I have heard my friend Edmund, a certain bird sing, that in the evening we are to have a little dance!—no bad news for you, my Edmund boy, for unless I woundily mistake, you will again be favoured with the hand of Leonora Gretton. Spoke I rightly, my Lord? or have I reckoned without my host?" "Certainly," replied his Lordship, "my good friend, with your host, and, I think," continued his Lordship, "that in the benignant looks of the Doctor, and Mrs. Summerfield, that our request is already granted." Mrs. Summerfield kindly nodded her assent. "Entirely, my dear friend," resumed his Lordship, "a meeting of friends and neighbours; for, I hope, the friends of Myrtle Grove are united

united to the friends of the Castle and Parsonage of Summerfield. Time has been when we have been estranged from each other—a time, I trust, never again to return. We must, therefore, as my good friend Mr. Quicksett has intimated, take effectual methods of letting Sir Phelim, and his friends, know the certainty of our being in a state of union. Edmund's books were therefore, for the day, entirely laid aside, and the horses were ordered to be got ready to proceed to Myrtle Grove, at which hospitable mansion all the neighbourhood was already assembled; that is, Mr. Musgrave's family, Mr. Quicksett's, Mr. Hawksby's, and Mr. Adderly. "I have to-day," said his Lordship, "only invited my nearest neighbours, in order that we may be the more perfectly at our ease. I envy not, for my own part, the triumph pretended by Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, in calling in the whole country to be the witness of his magnificent folly; for my own part, I am contented with the company of my friends and neighbours, for whom I feel a real love and regard; nor am I, at the
same

same time, without hopes, that they, on their part, have a reciprocal regard for me." "Bravo!" vociferated the honest Squire Quicksett; "Bravo!" he again repeated, "this will do, neighbour Summerfield, this will do; I always told his Lordship we should bring him and the worthy Baronet through with flying colours, and I am now more than ever sure of it."

The day past over at the Grove with great festivity. Our young Edmund enjoyed the match of cricket, at which he made a distinguished figure. A marquee had been fixed in his Lordship's park, under which all the company assembled; and, after having been very sumptuously regaled, they adjourned, in the evening, to the saloon in Myrtle Grove, which was splendidly illuminated, and the night concluded with a ball, at which, agreeably to the promise made him, Edmund was again favoured with the hand of the lovely Eleonora.

C H A P. LXXX.

THE whole country might now have been said to have been just alive; every thing was in motion; a canvas had been opened and publicly avowed by both parties, and had actually been begun; and, as is usually seen upon those occasions, a violent animosity had taken place between the partizans of the contending candidates. It is most true, that the popular stream run powerfully in favour of Sir Gregory Gretton and Lord W——. But those who took part with the court candidates, kept up their own spirits and the spirits of their friends, by an averment that every true friend to the church and king would, in due time, declare in favour of Mr. Bottomly and Sir Phelim, the church being, with very few exceptions, adverse to Sir Gregory Gretton and Lord W——. In other words, as the good 'Squire Quicksett would express himself, "the church well know their own interest, and who can best supply

ply the loaves and fishes ; they don't want to be told on which side their bread is best buttered ; and, my life for it, had our worthy friend of the castle as many livings to bestow as he has haunches of venison to treat his independent friends with, he'd be pretty secure of the suffrages of all the clergy who are now so likely to vote against him ; but, heaven be praised !" he would add, " a county election is not determined where we have so many independent yeomanry as we can number upon our list, by the influence of a Minister, or the mandates of a church and king club ! Sir Gregory Gretton, and Lord W——'s friends," the good 'Squire would add, " are as fast friends to the constitution as any men throughout the kingdom, but they detest slavery, and are resolved to live and die free ! No man, I believe, is a truer friend to his King than Sir Gregory Gretton, but he is still a greater friend to the people, and for this plain reason, because the people are many, and the King is but one. This is the political creed of Sir Gregory Gretton, to which Lord W—— subscribes

subscribes, and to which I faithfully set my hand and seal. Upon this principle it is that we have engaged to support them; and in this principle I trust for the full success of a cause, in the issue of which every thing we hold dear or valuable, is, I sincerely think, at stake. For my own part I have not the least doubt that we shall triumph over our enemies, and that the cause of virtue and independence will be seen every day rising superior to venality and court-influence.—In this manner was the autumn of the present year passed over by slight skirmishes between the contending parties, and in preparations for works of more serious hostility, as soon as a general-election should afford them opportunity. The popular cause, however, clearly had the ascendancy, as our worthy nabob and his family were every hour rising in the popular good opinion; and, indeed, if the expenditure of a princely fortune, in the most rational and beneficent manner, could justly entitle any man to the general love of his fellow citizens, our worthy nabob had the fairest claim to an universal suffrage

in his favour. For "shew me a man." would Dr. Summerfield triumphantly exclaim, "who does more good, and that in so kind a way, and I will vote for him in preference to the baronet. Nor do I think it the least part of his merit, that he has been the means of bringing over Lord W—— to a sense of what he owes to his real honour and dignity. Sir Gregory Gretton's friends vote for him because they love him, and they will vote for Lord W——, because he hath now come to know the value of a good character and a clear conscience. It is upon this system and upon these principles that I am educating the young Edmund, in which I place the hopes of my family. I have ever been independent myself, and I sincerely trust my nephew ever will be so." To the close of which prayer the young Edmund, who happened to be within hearing, very heartily cried out "Amen."

C H A P. LXXXI.

LADY Gretton's hunt this year opened with more than usual éclat, for the field was not only attended by her ladyship, and those ladies who had last year made part of Lady Gretton's hunt; but the lovely Eleonora was now seen riding by the side of Lady Gretton, and escorted by her faithful squire and attendant, the young Edmund Summerfield. It was a proud day for Edmund, for he had the honour of riding side by side of the loveliest young huntress that, perhaps, ever appeared in any hunt whatsoever; and I suppose, two more happy creatures could not exist in the world, than our lovely little Eleonora, mounted upon a courser which had been presented to her by Dr. Summerfield, and for whose perfect safety and sobriety Mr. Adderly had engaged himself, and our young Edmund, who was mounted upon the hunter which had the last season been presented him by Sir Gregory.

The company, as they had done the year before, dined together at the Summerfield-Arms, and upon the present occasion, when the toast of the day was given, "Lady Gretton, and the ladies of her ladyship's hunt," the honest 'Squire Quickfett desired her ladyship's permission to crown it with the name of that true friend to liberty and independence, the worthy husband of Lady Gretton. As this toast had been warmly seconded by Lord W——, Lady Gretton, when she returned her thanks to the company, desired them, that they would permit her to join Lord W—— to the name of Sir Gregory, an alliance and junction of whose names she hoped would be perpetual.— Her ladyship concluded with reminding the company, that she hoped to have the honour, or rather the renewal of the honour, of the company at the temple at Hawthorn-dale, at the annual distribution of Sir Gregory's medals, in the course of the Christmas holidays. To this the company very readily and joyfully assented.

C H A P. LXXXII.

“**A**ND pray,” said our worthy nabob, addressing himself to Lady Gretton, “who are to be the sponsors upon this occasion? for I understand that Mrs. Adderly was this morning brought to bed of a daughter. Our honest apothecary, Mr. Hawksey, who was an hour ago at the castle, made me acquainted with this event, that has rendered our friends at the cottage happy in this first fruits of their matrimony.” Lady Gretton informed him, that the gossips were to be Lady Anne W——, Mrs. Williamson, and Lord W——. It had been an engagement of some time standing, and our good friends, Lady Gretton said, at the cottage, are to have a little jubilee upon the occasion.— Mr. Adderly and our Alicia are to invite their friends upon the occasion, and they are to have a joyful day of it. The cottage, as they call it, will be for one day crouded, and I have promised them, my dear, one of your best does, to which,
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we may be assured of having the accompaniment of some of the best poultry in the neighbourhood. You know that our Alicia is celebrated for her hams and her guinea-fowls; and my Lord W——, I can assure you, pleases himself with the thoughts of the entertainment he is to enjoy at Mr. Adderly's cottage. "Adderly's cottage, I understand," said his Lordship to me the other day, "is a compleat model of a rural habitation; it is a perfect representation of an ornamented little farm, every thing about it, the pictures, the drawings, and the designs, being the work of their own hands; and the garden, the dairy-house, and the grotto, are all of them striking proofs of the delicate tastes of the master and mistress of the little mansion. I have often," continued his lordship, "admired the singular good taste of this rural dancing and drawing-master, and for some time have promised him, that whenever Alicia should be brought to bed, that my sister and myself would have the honour of answering for the little infant, and we now mean to perform our promise; and

we

we have the satisfaction of being assured that the venerable Mrs. Williamson will be associated with us upon the occasion." But, resumed her ladyship, "Mr. Adderly will, I'm sure, himself announce to you the happy tidings of Mrs. Adderly's *accouchement*, and will wait upon you in form, to invite yourself and his other friends of the castle to the christening of his little child; honest Adderly you may be sure is not a little pleas'd with the compliment made him by Lord W—— and Lady Ann, and I am myself not a little delighted with this instance of his lordship's condescension. Time has been, when such was the pride of this family of aristocrats, that they would have thought it an infinite degradation to themselves even to have spoken to a person of Mr. and Mrs. Adderly's level. But you, my dear, have the happy address of not only being benignant yourself, but rendering all those with whom you converse benignant also; for hence it is, that our friend Adderly entirely ascribes to your mark'd notice of them this instance of condescension of Lord W——, in offer-

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ing himself and sister to be gossips at the the baptism of their child."

Lady Gretton had been perfectly correct in this announcement, by anticipation of Mr. Adderly's visit at the castle; for within an hour after Sir Gregory had held this conversation with his lady, Mr. Adderly made his personal visit at the castle, ^{formally} ~~formerly~~ to announce to them the happy delivery of Alicia, and in her name and his own, to invite the family at the castle to the little jubilee they meant to make at the christening of their child; and so careful was his Lordship, least his promise should have been forgot, that in two days after the lying-in of Alicia, his Lordship and Lady Ann themselves made a visit at the cottage, to compliment Mr. and Mrs. Adderly upon the safety of Alicia, at the same time telling Mr. Adderly, that he was come to take a cup of caudle with him, and that he had great satisfaction in calling to mind, the promise he had made him of being a sponsor at the approaching festivity; "but," said he, "my good friend Adderly, you
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wont forget to invite our friend Walter Rosemary, for I consider myself, and ever shall, as principally indebted to him for my restoration to health; his electrical machine having been, through God, the effective means of curing me of the ^{paralytic} disorder, under which I had for some time languished."

Mr. Musgrave's family, and the worthy Squire Quicksett's, and in short all their friends, in which honest Rosemary was not omitted, were invited upon the occasion. Sir Gregory's french-horns and clarionets attended the joyous ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Adderly gave their friends a most excellent entertainment, and the evening concluded with a concert and a ball.



C H A P. LXXXIII.

THE time was now arrived, which had been so ardently long'd for by Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy, and they had the supreme felicity of seeing Sir Phelim's name in the London Gazette, as High Sheriff for the county of ———. They had been for some time making preparations for the event. A very compleat set of long-tail'd Flemish ^{rebans} ~~rhones~~ had been for some time in training. A very superb equipage had been purchased; and one of the best bands of wind-instruments that could possibly be procur'd, amongst these the Scotch bagpipes had not been omitted, which had been principally designed as a compliment to her friend Lady ^{Pulcherna} ~~Pulkerca~~ Primrose, by the means of whose good offices she had been furnished with two young lads from the Scotch highlands, of the extraordinary stature of seven feet high, who were to have the post of running-footmen; and constantly to precede the High Sheriff's equipage when it appeared
when

upon public occasions. Sir Phelim's liveries were the most gorgeous that could be devised: Their hats were laced with a point d'espagne, surmounted by plumes of feathers. and every one of the High Sheriff's retinue, which included the whole body of javelin-men, wore upon the right shoulder, magnificent golden shoulder-knots of the old fashion; but the dress of the running-footmen was in a style so completely fantastical and costly, as to beggar all description. Instead of hats, they wore upon their heads embroidered caps, in the manner of the grenadier-caps of the army, and each carried in his hand an enormous walking-stick, mounted and richly ornamented with silver.—It has been already noticed, that Sir Phelim's horses were richly caparisoned, their harness and traces being composed of blue morocco, plated in the most ostentatious manner imaginable with ormoulu; and the horses, like the powdered footmen, bore upon their heads plumes of feathers; the whole paraphernalia being designed at once to attract notice and to excite the popular admiration. But the admiration

ration of the populace upon the cavalcade's entering the county-town was displayed in a manner little expected by Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy ; the shouts of applause by the High Sheriff's friends were but faint and feeble, when at the same time the peals of laughter which resounded on all sides, gave Sir Phelim and his chaplain no small degree of uneasiness. Sir Phelim having engaged for the occasion, from one of the Universities, a divine for his chaplain, almost as farcical as himself, and such was his affectation, when he mounted the pulpit, that one of the Judges was overheard to declare, after being evidently disgusted with his very fullsome oratory, " this preacher hath much more the air of a milliner, than of a grave divine." But if their outset had been ridiculous, their plan was uniformly carried on during the time the judges remained in the town, in the same extravagantly absurd manner ; with them every thing was in extremes. My *Lady O'Flimzy* kept an open table at the Sheriff's lodgings, for the ladies who would do her the honour to partake of her sumptuous

sumptuous entertainments. The Judges were treated with the most costly wines, such as Tokay and Constantia; nor did Sir Phelim forbear to acquaint their Lordships, that he had been at no small pains to obtain a parcel of ^{Superior} Chirras wine from Persia, but it had turned sour upon the passage, and he had thus been disappointed in his hopes of being the first person who had introduced the wine of Persia into this country; but he should still flatter himself with being some other time more successful, as he determined to spare no expence in repeating the experiment.

Lady O'Flimzy's county-ball was of a piece with the rest of her entertainments: It was like her own dress and attire, unboundedly profuse and gaudy; but it gave so little satisfaction to those whom she entertained, that a lady was overheard to assert, that, in her judgment, the best part of the entertainment, and not the *least* laughable, was the two enormous highlanders, her Ladyship's running-footmen, who were posted at the door

door to receive the company on their alighting from their carriages, and to attend them when they departed. In every thing Sir Phelim and Lady O'Flimzy over-acted their parts; and the design and intent of the enormous expence, in which they had thus voluntarily engaged, purely to serve a ministerial purpose, was already discerned by all ranks of people. Nor had Sir Phelim better success with the gentlemen of the Grand Jury, than his lady had had at her ball. A little deluge of the most costly wines of France had flowed upon each occasion, but it had flowed in vain. His wines, indeed, had been drank, but by no means been relished; for the escutcheon of pretence, as the honest 'Squire Quicksett could observe, was upon this, and every other occasion, as standing a part of his coat of arms, as the star he wore upon his coat was of his order of the Knighthood of Saint Patrick. "A curious branch of heraldry," continued Mr. Musgrave, "in which husband and wife are mutually involved, for both Lady O'Flimzy, as well as her husband, constantly bear about this

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this escutcheon of pretence, in every thing they do and in every thing they attempt.

As Sir Phelim and his cavalcade had entered the county-town, amidst the laugh of the populace, they now made their exit in nearly the same ridiculous stile, with only, indeed, this small addition, that the mob hooted and hissed, while the bagpipes gave their last blast upon the Sheriff's departure.



C H A P. LXXXIV.

"**T**HERE is nothing new under the sun," was the sage remark of Lady ^{Pulchra} Fulkerea Primrose, at Lady O'Flimzy's ball. She was interrupted by the young Edmund Summerfield:—"There was something altogether new in the High Sheriff's running footmen, and no less new than their being preceded by a highland bagpipe; but what surprizes me," continued the young Edmund, "that all this novelty should produce so very little effect; what grand effect might have been produced by the introduction of the wine of Chiras, had it not unfortunately turned sour, I will not pretend to say, but this I will pretend to say—that the old plain way of sailing, is, in my opinion, infinitely better; and I dare lay my life there is scarcely a freeholder in the county but would prefer Sir Gregory Gretton, with his horns and clarionets, to Sir Phe-lim O'Flimzy, with his tall running footmen and Scotch bagpipes." "So you may

may imagine," replied a sleek well-fed son of the church, "young gentleman, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating; and my next year's tythes to a nut-shell, that if the present contest ever arrive at the decision of a poll, then will be seen the difference between old families and upstarts; then will be seen how serious a thing it is to take the poll of so capital a county as our's is, and the result will shew who are the true friends of the church and king." Lady Pulkerea made no reply, and our young Edmund prudently remained silent.

Tho' it was well known that our present High-Sheriff, had there been a sudden dissolution of Parliament, would have been as ^{inamenable} ~~inamenable~~ to have returned himself as the late Sheriff would have been, yet, as it was generally supposed that himself and Mr. Bottomly were let into the secret, as to the direction of the political life of the present Parliament, not any scruple was made in canvassing for the county, to ask double votes, one for the present Sheriff and the other for

one of the sitting members, Mr. Bottomly. But with all the ministerial influence of the tories and the church into the bargain, our worthy Baronet and Lord W—— were continually gaining ground of their opponents. The fact was, there was public virtue and private integrity, weigh'd in the scale, against ministerial interest and destitution of principles; and when these circumstances came to be placed in opposite scales, it was not very difficult to determine which scale would kick the beam. Sir Phelim, however, and Lady O'Flimzy, were resolved to make one more attempt, and at the summer-assizes to rally their forces. In humble imitation of our good Baronet at the castle, they summoned together all their friends and adherents, to attend the summer cavalcade of their principal, Sir Phelim, to the county-town: But their numbers fell so vastly short of Sir Gregory Gretton's, that there were not wanting some to recommend to Sir Phelim O'Flimzy in time to give up the contest. But Lady O'Flimzy, in spite of every warning, was determined to proceed, declar-
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ing that Sir Phelim should stand the poll, 'tho' she pawned her jewels, and he mortgaged every acre of land he possessed in the world. A voice, that was supposed to be the honest 'Squire Quicksett's, was heard to say, "Bravo! then will it not be difficult to determine what will be the end of the contest, for we very well know whose purse is the longest, and, at the same time, whose is the better cause."

The contest had already cost very many thousand pounds; it had been carried on with equal spirit on both sides, and either party thought themselves sure of success. It was now soon to be decided on which side lay the majority of votes; for Parliament was now dissolved, and the joint candidates had marshalled their forces. Houses had been opened in favour of the respective candidates, and as the day of election drew on, nothing was left untried which might ensure success.—Flags and streamers, with a variety of mottos, were seen upon the day of election; but, perhaps, there's the most striking proof, how dear to the breasts of

Englishmen are the ideas of Liberty and Independence. A superb flag was seen to wanton in the winds, on which was inscribed, in blue and golden letters, Liberty and Independence. It was said to have been wrought by the fair hand of a certain Tory Lady, and by her presented to Sir Phelim O'Flimzy and his friend Mr. Bottomly, to be by them borne aloft upon the day of election; giving hereby the strongest proof, that however mankind are mean enough to act under ministerial influence, yet they cannot help in their hearts bearing testimony to the cause of virtue and disinterestedness.

It excited, indeed, only laughter and derision in those who saw the words, Liberty and Independence, so basely prostituted; whereas, said they, when they read the labels, upon which were inscribed, "Sir Gregory Gretton, the Yeoman's friend," can any thing be more true; for is it not well known, that Sir Gregory Gretton is the friend of every independent yeoman in the county?—The issue of the contest turned out as
Lord

Lord W——'s and Sir Gregory's friends had conjectured. Their conjectures had been formed upon a very reasonable speculation, and upon the third day the ministerial candidates thought proper to decline the poll, and Lord W—— and Sir Gregory were returned by a very great majority.



CHAP.

C H A P. LXXXV.

AND thus, by the Court-candidates having declined the poll, Sir Gregory and Lord W—— remained masters of the field of battle. The populace upon these occasions, will always be guilty of some little eccentricities. They insisted upon it, as they had fought and conquered, that they had a right to the colours and standards of the enemy, and in effect they possessed themselves of all these trophies. In particular, that very elegant and curiously wrought banner, upon which the lady had embroidered the letters in golden characters, of Liberty and Independence, they pleasantly, and with no small propriety, insisted, could be applied to no one so properly as to that worthy Divine, Dr. Summerfield.

It should have been mentioned, that the Dr. and his nephew had rode to the election ground at the head of 600 freeholders,

holders, who were all fast friends to the house of Summerfield. At the same time, therefore, that the populace took off the horses from Lady Gretton's carriage, in order to have themselves the honour, as they expressed it, of drawing her Ladyship and her lovely little daughter, to the front of the court-hall, they decorated the post-chaise of Dr. Summerfield with this beautiful streamer, to whose character and conduct, they said, the words did so properly apply: for who, said they, is a more true and steady friend to liberty than Dr. Summerfield? and who more independent than this excellent Divine?

During this time the chairing of the two candidates was carried on, amidst the acclamations of a very numerous and applauding populace; but it was not only the populace who enjoyed the triumphs of their favourite candidates, but every window in the county-town was crowded with well-dressed ladies, who joined their plaudits to those of the freeholders in the street; and, indeed, the joy expressed by persons of all ranks upon this memorable

memorable occasion, will be for ever recorded in the election annals of the county of —.

It should have been mentioned, that Lady Ann W—— and Lady Gretton had embroidered, with their own hands, the magnificent chairs in which the two popular candidates were, as is usual upon these occasions, carried in triumph round the county town. The frames of these chairs were of burnished gold, covered with a sky blue silk damask, and very curiously embroidered with laurel leaves blended with gold.

A very magnificent entertainment had been provided by Lord W—— and Sir Gregory, at one of the principal Inns; and it was supposed that a day of more true festivity was never passed—it was truly a feast of reason and a flow of soul; and such was the popular estimation in which our worthy nabob was held, by persons of all ranks, that the joy displayed upon this occasion, seemed to be almost universal, inasmuch, that even those
who,

who, from connection, had been obliged to vote contrary to their inclinations, did not hesitate to declare, that they were not sorry for their defeat, and should have sincerely regretted if their votes had been the means of Sir Gregory Gretton losing his election.

In the evening a very splendid ball was given by Lady Ann W— and Lady Gretton. The whole town was illuminated, and a very brilliant fire-work was let off, which had been expressly devised for the occasion by Mr. Adderly. And here, at the close of this contested election, let it once for all be remarked, to the everlasting honour of the very lowest freeholder in the interest of Lord W—— and Sir Gregory Gretton, that amidst all the licence of a contested election, so critically well observed had been the admonition of order and decency, on the side of Sir Gregory's friends, that there had scarcely been an instance of a single outrage; and what was strikingly remarkable, at the princely mansion and pleasure-grounds of Hawthorn-dale,

which had for some time past, indeed during the whole time of the election-contest, been opened of a Sunday for the reception of the freeholders, upon that day, who chose to walk in the gardens, and afterwards to be regaled in the servant's-hall, not a single example had occurred of any spoil or damage having been done either to the pleasure-grounds, or to any of the apartments ; and it was a remark made by Mr. Walter Rosemary, that such was the general love that all mankind had for Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, " that not one of the lowest freeholders, drunk or sober, would do the slightest wrong to Sir Gregory or Lady Gretton."



C H A P. LXXXVI.

THO' it is undoubtedly to be deeply regretted, that a contested county election, should be attended with so enormous an expence, yet is it a point of consolation, when an expence of this kind does not materially affect the fortunes of the successful candidates, and where the consequence of the conflict is an effectual securing of the independency of the county in which such contest has happened.—“ It has very providentially happened,” would Dr. Summerfield say, “ that heaven has bestowed a very plentiful fortune upon our friend Sir Gregory Gretton, and has given him a heart and understanding to know how properly to use it. An expenditure of thirty-thousand pounds, which this contest has cost, the principal part of which will fall upon Sir Gregory, he can very well support : For our worthy friend, tho' he lives splendidly, he at the same time observes proper œconomy. But it is to be apprehended that the expence of the

contest was felt very severely by Mr. Bottomly and his colleague, Sir Phelim, each of whom found it necessary, soon after the election, to retire to the continent in order to repair their shattered fortunes.

Lord W—— had prudently left the principal stress of the contest to his worthy colleague Sir Gregory, whose age, whose constitution, and whose finances, were better adapted to the fatigues of an election campaign: “And in so doing,” observed Lord W——, “I look indeed beyond the present moment, and whatever merit I may assume to myself, in having fought the battle of the county jointly with Sir Gregory Gretton, I consider our success as not only an effectual establishment of the county’s independency, but that the contest will effectually secure the joint interest of the houses of Summerfield and Gretton. For my own part,” would Lord W—— continue, “I consider myself as a mere *locum tenens*, for my adopted son, young Edmund Summerfield; and if it might please God

to continue my existence 'till Edmund should be old enough to receive my resignation of the trust, and I could have the satisfaction of seeing the county so well represented, as I am persuaded it would be by a Gretton and a Summerfield, I could then be content, with great comfort, to retire to my last home, as I should think I could be able to say with Horace—

“ Cedam uti conviva fatur” —

Lord W——’s estates, both Irish and English had been for some time committed to the trust of Mr. Selby, and so well had his Lordship’s affairs been managed by that gentleman, that there had already been a considerable saving. His Lordship left every thing implicitly to our worthy nabob, who managed for him, as the noble peer would frequently declare, infinitely better than he was ever able to manage for himself.

Young Edmund Summerfield had now, for a considerable time with his worthy tutor, lived at Myrtle-grove, and so amiable

able were his manners, that it was impossible to say, whether Lord W—— or his sister Ann were most fond of him. "But dearly as we love the young Edmund," observed Lady Ann W—— to Lady Gretton, "we mean not to monopolize him; we wish him to divide his time, as his duty and inclination would lead him, that is, between the Castle, the Parsonage, and Myrtle-grove. Alas!" would Lady Ann continue, "we shall soon have but little of Edmund's company, for we understand his uncle designs soon sending him, with his private tutor, Mr. Adamson, to the University; in which case," added her Ladyship, "Dr. Summerfield will want a new curate, and my Lord and Sir Gregory another chaplain; for since Mr. Adamson has resided at Myrtle-grove, we have experienced the comfort of dividing our family prayers with the worthy family of of the castle." It having been the custom of Mr. Adamson to divide the week between the Castle and the Grove; that is, he three times read prayers at the Castle, and three times at Myrtle-grove: And so seriously convinced was our good

Baronet

Baronet of the utility of family-prayers, that at Hawthorn-dale, where Mr. Walter Rosemary superintended Sir Gregory's improvements, family-prayers was read daily by Mr. Rosemary, morning and evening.

The Dale now begun to assume a very magnificent appearance ; the improvements had been now well-nigh compleated. Sir Gregory's deer, his groves, his fish-ponds, and his cascades, under the superintendence of honest Walter, were every day more and more flourishing ; and the picture-gallery, which had from time to time been receiving very splendid additions, contained now the first collection of pictures in this or the adjoining counties. Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton would sometimes pass a week at Hawthorn-dale, tho', in consequence of the promise given to the late Mr. Summerfield, it was Sir Gregory's design to make Summerfield-castle the place of his general residence, 'till Edmund should come of age. But in these occasional residen-

ces at the Dale, they were usually accompanied by Lord W——, Lady Ann, and our young Edmund, to whom it was evident the lovely Eleonora was every day more and more attached; an attachment which the venerable Mrs. Williamson perfectly approved, and upon all occasions countenanced and encouraged. This lovely creature was every day, under the tuition of Mrs. Richards, becoming more and more accomplished; and Mr. Rosemary had been for some time past giving her lectures in Geography, in which our young lady made as rapid improvements as she did in every other branch of polite literature. But the person and accomplishments of Eleonora were the least of her merits: Her heart bore so exact an affinity to those from whom she descended, that she was no less the admiration of our young Edmund, than she was of all who were so happy as to be within the circle of her acquaintance; and the growing affection of these young people, was seen and encouraged by Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton: But they were now seen
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to be separated for a time, as our young Edmund was soon to compleat his education in that seminary of sound and religious learning, St. John's College, in the Univerfity of Cambridge.



C H A P, LXXXVII.

SO attentive had been Dr. Summerfield and Mr. Adamson to the education of the young Edmund Summerfield, and so unremitting had been the application of our young gentleman to the lectures given him by his different tutors, that in the opinion of his uncle Summerfield, he was sufficiently qualified for an admission at the University, in which it was intended he should reside till he was of a proper age to accompany Mr. Adamson in a tour upon the Continent.

In this his first visit to Cambridge, our young Edmund was accompanied by Sir Gregory, Lady Gretton, and the lovely Eleonora, whom our good Baronet wished to amuse, and at the same time improve with the sight of this famous seat of learning and the Muses. Dr. Summerfield was also desirous of renewing his acquaintance with a place in which he had passed some of the happiest years of his

his life, and at the same time of satisfying the laudable curiosity of his Lady and Mrs. Adderly, who had each expressed a very ardent inclination to accompany the Dr. and his nephew upon this interesting occasion.

Mr. Adderly, whose lectures in the several branches of music, dancing, drawing, and fencing, had been attended with all imaginable success, was also of the party, and our young gentleman was attended by a black servant, provided for him by Mr. Adderly, and who had been by him so well instructed in both sciences of the small and the back-sword, that it was supposed, this faithful African would have it in his power to keep our young gentleman in constant exercise, without any further assistance of the fencing-master; for which purpose Mr. Adderly had amply provided him with foils, with which he was every day to take a lesson with his young master, and he was directed sometimes to practice the useful and manly exercise of the back-sword; for which purpose he was also provided with

the proper basket hilted weapons. Selym, who was also one of the best swimmers in the world, had been directed by Dr. Summerfield, constantly to accompany his young master whenever he bathed in the *Cam*, an injunction which he never neglected.

As health and proper relaxation were regarded as equally necessary, with the progress which his nephew might make in academical learning, he had very readily accepted the present made our young Edmund by Sir Gregory Gretton, of two horses for his own use, and another for Mr. Adamson. Those horses were attended by a stable-boy of our nabob's, for whose care and fidelity honest Humphrey Clagget had pledged himself; the lad having been trained by himself, and by him recommended to Sir Gregory-

The Doctor and Mr. Adamson, and our young Academic, who was now admitted a fellow-commoner of St. John's College, in Cambridge, attended the ladies
in

in making the tour of the Colleges, and in shewing them all the curiosities of the University. In the College in which the young Edmund was now a member, Sir Gregory and his party had every respect paid him that his very singular merit and character entitled him to. They were entertained by the master of the College in a manner that did great credit to College hospitality ; upon which occasion it was not omitted to amuse the ladies with a sight of that very noble *Visto*, which commences with the first court, and terminates only with the full length of the College library. They, as usual before dinner, walked in the library belonging to the College, upon which occasion our worthy nabob, taking notice of the skeleton at the upper end of the library, observed, that the skeleton wou'd bear the accompaniment of a mummy on the opposite side, and that very luckily he had lately received a present from the East-Indies of a very fine one, which he would present to the College, if they would do him the favour to accept of it.

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Our young Edmund was now accommodated with a very handsome set of chambers adjoining to those of Mr. Adamson, and he applied himself diligently to his academical studies. He every other day went to lectures in Grotius upon War and Peace; and upon the alternate days, his lecture was either Euclid's Geometry, or Locke upon the Human Understanding. Each of those studies being alike calculated, in the opinion of Mr. Adamson, to teach a young gentleman the art of reasoning. The afternoons were employed in classical studies, reading history, both ancient and modern, walking, or taking other exercise; nor were the duties of the chapel or hall, neglected; our young academic being remarkable for his regular attendance at both the one and the other. The consequence was, that his example was recommended to the imitation of all the young gentlemen of rank and fortune in the University, to most of whom he was soon seen to endear himself, by the amiableness of his manners, and the manliness of his deportment. He had it in his power
sometimes

sometimes to accommodate his young friends with a horse, and his man Sely^{er} soon became popular with all the young gentlemen, for his admirable skill in the science of defence ; and it now appears that Sely and his fellow servant, Toby, had been so well instructed at the Castle in playing the first and second horn, that they were at any time able (musically speaking) to attend their young master and his friends in water-parties upon the river, of which he and his tutor were remarkably fond ; upon which occasion they had sometimes the accompaniment of other instruments, as both Mr. Adamson and his pupil performed themselves upon several ; and they numbered amongst their acquaintance, some of the first musical amateurs in the University.

It should have been noted, that when Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, together with Mrs. Richards and the lovely Eleonora, took their leave of our young Edmund, and his tutor, Dr. Summerfield engaged, to supply the place of Mr. Adamson, a young gentleman, who had
lately

lately been ordained, and who had been recommended to him as in all respects qualified to be Chaplain to Lord W—— and our worthy nabob. This young divine accompanied the party upon their return; and amply did Mr. Templeman, for such was his name, justify the character which Dr. Summerfield had received of him, and he soon became a favorite, both at Myrtle-grove, and at Summerfield Castle.

The long vacation was now drawing near, to which our young Edmund and the lovely Eleonora had been looking forward with no small degree of impatience. The moment at length arrived, and our young Edmund flew to the raptures and embraces of his expecting friends. They had the satisfaction of receiving him evidently improved, both in his stature and his wisdom. His manners were openly engaging, and his deportment strikingly manly and noble. In a word, such had been his academical improvements, as to give the good Dr. Summerfield all imaginable satisfaction. For the

the letters which he had received from his college tutor, spoke of our young Edmund in terms of such very high approbation, as gave him every reason to hope that he would well support the name and family character of Summerfield. It may easily be imagined that he was no less favourably received at Myrtle-Grove, than he was at Summerfield Castle; and Lord W—— took every occasion to declare his entire satisfaction in his adopted heir; and sometimes, pointing to the young Edmund when he was out of distance of being heard, he would say to Sir Gregory, “that dear boy more than exceeds our warmest hopes and expectations; for he is at once well learned and properly graceful. I too well know how desirable is our Edmund’s company both at the Castle and at the Parsonage, to think of monopolizing his company; he shall therefore, if you please, divide his time, during the vacation, equally amongst us. But as you are so good, Sir Gregory, to permit me to have the first turn of our dear Edmund’s society at Myrtle-Grove, we must, if you please, call our particu-

lar friends together; such as the Musgraves, the Quicksetts, the Hawkesbys, and the Adderlys, all of whom I know interest themselves in the well-being and well-doing of Edmund Summerfield.—Edmund is still fond of cricket, the exercise is manly, and it is healthy; but he is also no less fond of dancing, and in the evening we will have a little concert and a ball.”—’Twill readily be conceived how perfectly agreeable this proposition was, both to Eleonora and to Edmund Summerfield, and in effect both musick and dancing were in the highest degree approved both by Dr. Summerfield and his lady, as well as Sir Gregory and lady Gretton. “With regard to music,” would the venerable Mrs. Williamson say, “we are taught to believe that the heavenly beings themselves are delighted with it; and with respect to dancing, we are assured, that one of the most amiable characters recorded in holy writ, himself danced before the ark of God.”

C H A P. LXXXVIII.

IN general the mornings of the young Edmund were employed in their studies; the afternoons were devoted to amusements.

Upon one of these days, during the shooting season, Edmund had been walking out with his gun and his dog, at Hawthorne-dale. The sky had suddenly become obscured, and a very violent thunder-storm had come on. He was looking about him for a place of shelter, when he suddenly heard the rapid wheels of a carriage, and turning round, he saw the phaeton of Lady Gretton, with its four horses running furiously along, the postillion having been thrown from one of the leaders, from the circumstance of the horses having taken fright at the vivid flashes of lightning. In the phaeton he knew were Lady Gretton, Mrs. Richards, and his Eleonora. There was not a moment to lose; the horses were running

very rapidly towards a steep precipice, which was likely to terminate in the destruction of the carriage and what it contained; that is, what he held most dear upon earth. Throwing therefore away his gun, and with that happy presence of mind, and manly exertion of his powers, which few young men were so well able to make, he sprung upon the dismounted horse as he was passing him, and with the most fortunate agility seated himself upon the saddle, from whence the postillion had been thrown. In an instant he stopped the career of these furious steeds, and again was the probable means of saving the life of the lovely Eleonora. By great good providence, Lady Gretton and Mrs. Richards had confined within the carriage the lovely Eleonora, who in her fright was in the very act of throwing herself headlong from the carriage. They were now secure, and the postillion, who had been only dismounted, had returned, and together with Edmund, addressed himself to the quieting of the horses; but the ladies had been too much affrighted to venture returning in the phaeton; they therefore

therefore slowly proceeded on foot, escorted by our young Edmund, to Hawthorne-dale.

They were received, as it may be imagined, by Sir Gregory Gretton, who embraced our young Edmund at having, a second time, been a kind of guardian-angel to Eleonora; but, indeed, in this instance, as the Baronet, with great gratitude declared, "this gallant youth has been the means of saving the lives of a whole family."

It can be more easily conceived than expressed, with what raptures the venerable Mrs. Williamson alternately pressed Eleonora and Edmund to her bosom, repeatedly declaring, with her venerable hands lifted up to heaven, that providence designed them for each other. A sentiment, in which Lady Gretton, when she was sufficiently recovered from her fright, declared her entire acquiescence.

C H A P. LXXXIX.

IT has from accident been omitted to mention, that Mr. and Mrs. Seldon, during their residence in England, had taken a house upon Black-heath, in order that they might be near the spot where they had placed their sons at school; that is, at the academy at Greenwich. Their house had a communication with Greenwich-park, and its proximity to the metropolis at the same time rendered it convenient to Mr. Seldon, whose business frequently carried him to London. But his and his Lady's attachment to the houses of Summerfield and Gretton, failed not to conduct them to the Castle, in due time, after the triumph of the joint candidates Lord W—— and Sir Gregory, had been final and compleat.— They had to rejoice also for the safety of their daughter Alicia, and to receive the felicitations of their friends upon the birth of a grand-child; a grand-child which had been thus, as has been recited,

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so highly honoured by the great persons who condescended to be gossips upon the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Seldon had repaired to Summerfield in high glee, on both accounts : They enjoyed the triumph of the successful candidates, and the perfect contentment of the worthy Adderly and their daughter, whose happiness seemed, if possible, to have been rendered more compleat by this addition to their family. They found the two houses of Summerfield and Gretton in a state of pious exultation at the providential escape of Eleonora from the imminent danger from which she had been rescued by the young Edmund, in grateful commemoration of which, Sir Gregory had ordered a marble obelisk to be erected as near the spot as might be, with a suitable inscription, which at once testified his own gratitude to heaven, and his sense of the heroism of Edmund Summerfield, who had been its instrument in again saving his daughter from destruction. Upon this occasion the poor had not been forgotten ; Sir Gregory having ordered that open house should be kept, both at
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the Castle and at Hawthorne-dale, in addition to which a very liberal donation was given to those families who were not in a condition to partake of the hospitality at the Castle and at the Dale.

At Myrtle-Grove Lord W— had held a jubilee for three days, to which all the country had been invited, and at which our young Edmund, at the express desire of Lord W—, presided, under the avowed character of his adopted heir.



C H A P. XC.

EDMUND Summerfield having been now two years at the University of Cambridge, Dr. Summerfield, with the entire approbation of Lord W——, had proposed that he should exchange his academical studies, for a tour upon the Continent, in the course of which he was to be attended by his very worthy tutor the Rev. Mr. Adamson. Preparations were therefore made for his receiving this accustomed finish of a polite education.— Lord W—— having made him such an appointment as Dr. Summerfield thought amply necessary to enable his nephew and Mr. Adamson, to make, what is usually called, the grand tour, not only with propriety, but with a degree of splendour, adequate to the character of the adopted heir of Lord W——. Our good Baronet and Lady Gretton, with their wonted munificence, were not wanting in making our young traveller certain very handsome presents ; but what more parti-

cularly delighted our young Edmund, was being permitted to exchange miniature portraits with the lovely Eleonora. These portraits had been executed by one of the first miniature painters, and each of them was very superbly set with diamonds of the very first water.

It is highly probable, that many of our readers will agree in opinion with the author of the present work, that the intended tour of the young Edmund Summerfield upon the continent of Europe, was very opportunely retarded, and with the utmost propriety delayed to some future time, by the sudden and unexpected arrival of the Maraboo of Senegal and his family. It put an effectual stop to the projected journey of our travellers, as both Dr. Summerfield and the good Baronet of the Castle, considered it as a proper compliment to the African Prince and his Lady, that our young gentleman should continue some time longer in England; as it was well known that his absence would have been regarded by the Maraboo, and his respectable consort,

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as an event by no means favourable or auspicious to the pleasure they proposed to themselves, from this visit to their friends in England. It was determined therefore, that the intended tour of Europe should be postponed at least a month, in order that Edmund and his respectable tutor might assist in the festivities which took place, not only at Summerfield Castle and the Parsonage, but also at Myrtle-Grove, the seat of Lord W—, by way of giving a proper welcome to the Maraboo and his suite, upon their arrival in England. The African Prince and his Lady, together with two of their children, had left their own country in perfect health, and their happy subjects in a high state of improved civilization. They had brought over with them very magnificent presents, the produce of their country, their visit to England having been accelerated by one of their ships destined to the port of London, which had sooner completed her lading than had been expected. However unexpectedly the African Prince had made his appearance at the Castle, both his Lady and

himself were received by Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, with that heartfelt cordiality with which they were accustomed to receive visitors who possessed, and so highly merited, their esteem, as did the Prince and Princess of Senegal. The lovely Eleonora in particular, notwithstanding her attachment to her present very respectable governess, embraced the Maraboo's lady with a degree of rapture, that was highly flattering to that very estimable woman. "I perceive," said she to Lady Gretton, at the same time returning her embrace with something like a parental fondness, "I perceive," said the Maraboo's Lady, "that my dear pupil has not forgot me;" "nor ever will forget you," was the affectionate reply of the amiable heiress of the house of Gretton: "and I hope, as I have now the happiness of once more embracing my former dear governess, and that it has pleased God, upon her return to England, to find not only my papa and mamma, but my dear grandmamma Williamson, together with the family at the Parsonage and Myrtle-Grove, all in high health and spirits, that
our

our good friends, the Maraboo and his family, are now come to reside amongst us for the remainder of their lives."—

"Not entirely so," rejoined the Maraboo, "my dear young lady, but this I can assure you, that I have made such a disposition of my affairs at Senegal, that we have it in our power to devote one whole year to the social hospitality of our dear friends in England; and happy," continued the African Prince, "that my dearly beloved young Edmund and his worthy tutor, were not already set out upon their travels before we arrived; for to tell you the truth, the disappointment of not meeting them would have been the more grievous, as I had pleased myself, during the voyage from my own country, with the plan I had formed for making the complete tour in their company, of England, Scotland and Ireland: And I will yet flatter myself, that as I fortunately arrived before their departure for the Continent of Europe, I may still have influence enough with the heads of the houses of Summerfield and Myrtle-Grove, to persuade them to defer the making of the
grand

grand tour, as it is called, 'till they have made the smaller one—the tour of their own happy islands.” “Of this,” said Sir Gregory Gretton, (to which Dr. Summerfield cheerfully assented) “we will talk further my dear Maraboo, after you have given us the pleasure and honour of your company for the ensuing months of the present summer; I may then, perhaps, have the satisfaction of accompanying you myself to my estate in Ireland, which I for some time have had in meditation to visit. For the present, we can think of nothing but enjoying the happiness which your friendly society will afford us at Summerfield Castle, the Parsonage, and, where we can assure you your company will be equally acceptable, at the truly hospitable mansion of Myrtle-Grove.”

CHAP.

C H A P. XCI

THE arrival of the Maraboo had been announced at the villages of Summerfield and Hawthorne-Dale, by the ringing of bells and other demonstrations of joy. Our hospitable Baronet, not only kept open house upon the occasion at Summerfield Castle, but gave directions to Mr. Walter Rosemary, to open his cellar at Hawthorne-dale; and to entertain his tenants and every freeholder in the vicinity for three days, in the true style of old English hospitality; upon the last of which days, himself and his friends at the Castle, attended in person the festivity, and mixed in the rural dance, which was entirely under the direction of Mr. Walter Rosemary. Neither did Lord W—— nor Lady Anne, disdain themselves to be present at the entertainments; and were both seen to mix with infinite condescension with the village dancers: Lord W——, at the same time, announced to his assembled friends, that

that he had in like manner, in honor of the Maraboo and his family, given directions for a similar fête to be observed at Myrtle-Grove.

It ought to have been mentioned, that an express had been sent to Mr. and Mrs. Seldon, acquainting them with the arrival of the Maraboo and his family; and at the same time inviting them either to the Castle or to the Parsonage, which ever they might choose for their residence, during their visit to the African Prince and his Lady. The reader need not be reminded how agreeable this invitation had been to Mr. and Mrs. Seldon, who in addition to their daughter's society, and that of their highly esteemed friends of the houses of Gretton and Summerfield, had now the super-added felicity of once more embracing the Maraboo of Senegal and his Lady. They had obeyed the summons without losing a moment, and they brought with them their two sons, in order that they might pay their respects to their very estimable uncle and aunt; but these good people, the worthy Jamaica planter

planter and his Lady made choice, (as it was natural to suppose they would) of their son-in-law, Mr. Adderly's farm, for their habitation; which was now become one of the most elegant cottages perhaps in the whole kingdom; his farm and his garden being also in the highest state of cultivation.

Mr. and Mrs. Seldon and her sons, arrived just in time to be present at the rural fête, which in honor of the Maraboo, was to be given at Myrtle-Grove, and at which they found, to their great satisfaction, the families of Mr. Musgrave and Mr. Quicksett, who had happened not to be in the country during the first week of these village festivities. An affair of some consequence had called our honest friend 'Squire Quicksett up to the metropolis, whither he had been accompanied by his friend Mr. Musgrave, who was glad of that opportunity to make a visit to his son, who was now, through the friendship of Sir Gregory Gretton, received into partnership in the great mercantile house, in which he had served an ap-

prenticeship. The affair, which had called the honest 'Squire to town, was in order to assist his son-in-law, to whom he was now become perfectly reconciled, with a necessary sum of money to purchase a Lieutenant-colonelcy of the Guards.— This young officer was now become a perfectly reformed man, having entirely abandoned his former pernicious habit of gaming, and devoted himself sedulously to the duties of his profession, and the conjugal endearments of a beloved wife and family. He was at once an honour and an ornament to his profession; he had at the same time adopted such a plan of rational œconomy, as had rendered him so truly dear to our honest 'Squire, that he had generously presented him, in addition to his wife's fortune, with a sum of money sufficient to pay all the expences of his promotion in the army.—The 'Squire therefore returned into the country most completely happy, bringing with him the young Colonel and his Lady, whom he introduced to the company at Myrtle-Grove, saying to Lord W—— and Lady Anne, “ I can now, with some
degree

degree of comfort, present to your Lordship, and to you my Lady, my daughter and my son-in-law, who are now no longer the brace of mad-caps they were when they ran off together to Gretna-green, but are as true a pair of matrimonial turtles, as ever coo'd together in the purlieus of St. James's, or in any of the less fashionable circles on the eastern side of Temple-bar. Odds heartlikins!" continuing his speech, while he cordially shook the Maraboo by the hand, "I am now so well satisfied with these young people, that I am sure your highness, in the whole extent of your dominions, cannot produce a married man and his wife better entitled to the Flitch of Bacon at Dunmow, than my daughter and her husband Colonel Wingfield." In saying which, he presented the young Lieutenant-Colonel, in his usual frank and familiar manner, to the Maraboo, observing at the same time, that he believed he might venture to approach his Highness without the servile formality of bending the knee or kissing the hand, as is the custom in many of the Courts in Europe,

according to the best information, (for I speak only, he added, from information) I have had concerning their fashions, for, I thank God, I never exhibited my person at any of them. I am happy, however, in having it in my power, once more in my life, to crack a bottle of Madeira with the worthy Maraboo of Senegal ;" which having said, the young Lieutenant-colonel and his Lady were in form presented by our worthy 'Squire to the company assembled at Myrtle-Grove.

The reader will be pleased to remember, that when the African Prince had before been in England, he had expressed himself highly delighted with Sir Gregory Gretton's french-horns and clarionets. He was now attended by certain servants of his own country, who performed admirably well upon these wind instruments. Upon this occasion they accompanied the horns and clarionets belonging to Summerfield Castle, and under the direction of Mr. Adderly, made together, as the honest 'Squire Quicksett termed it, a most noble crash; playing during the whole

whole time of dinner, to the numerous company which had been invited, in honour of the Maraboo and his Lady. Nor had Lord W—— omitted to order the attendance of our old acquaintance Humphry Clagget, who had collected together all the best cudgel-players in the country, as it was remembered that the African Prince, when he was last in England, had declared himself to be highly entertained by an exhibition of this admirable imitation of the manly exercise of English broadsword.

At this sport Mr. Adderly also, by the desire of Lord W——, took the lead in the direction, and his adopted heir, the young Edmund, not only undertook to assist in the distribution of the prizes, but he also himself was seen to mingle with the combatants; and was now observed to verify the prediction heretofore given of the young 'Squire, by honest Humphry Clagget, by proving himself, to the extreme joy and very agreeable surprize of the Maraboo, to be himself the very best backsword player in all the country.

At

At night the park and the garden were beautifully illuminated, and the village lads and lasses, for very many miles round, together with a numerous company of gentlemen and ladies in rustic habiliments, were entertained with a supper, which concluded with a ball, which did not terminate till the ensuing morning.

Lord W—— and Lady Anne, during the whole festivity, were seen to exert themselves with the most engaging condescension, in such manner as to give universal satisfaction to the guests of every denomination; indeed in such manner as to draw from the honest 'Squire Quicksett the warmest applause and approbation; the 'Squire being heard to declare, in his usual strong and emphatic manner, that he was convinced by the experience of this day's entertainment, that his Lordship had now completely laid aside his former notions of courtly superiority, and was become decidedly a convert to the more popular doctrine of Liberty and Equality.

C H A P. XCII.

IT may have been remarked, and by some readers I may be, perhaps, blamed for the omission, that I have not conformed myself to a servile imitation of any novel writer whatsoever; and in particular, that I have not, like most, or at least, very many novelists, prefixed to the head of my chapters, any leading title whatever. My reason has been, that my reader's expectation should not be anticipated; in fine, that whatever might be the subject of the chapter, it might take him, as it were, by an agreeable surprize, and an adventure might break upon him as unexpectedly, as it had occurred in actual representation. It appeared to me, that it was but an ill compliment to the reader's imagination to do otherwise. Neither have I been mechanically correct, with regard to the several epochs of this little history; leaving it, as an amusing employment for his own calculation; with a very little trouble of his own, it is

is presumed, a reader of tolerable observation, will be able to settle such matters to his own complete satisfaction.

The Maraboo, consistently with his first intention, when he thus, for the second time, visited England, had been gratified by his request having been complied with, in the delaying of the projected tour of the young Edmund and his tutor, Mr. Adamson, to the Continent of Europe, 'till our travellers had made the circuit of our own islands. In this tour they were accompanied, as he had given the African Prince hopes upon his arrival, and when his plan had been first mentioned, by our good Baronet Sir Gregory Gretton. He had for some time meditated a visit to his Irish estates, and he now put his design in execution; for this reason, in compliment to Sir Gregory, Ireland was made the first object of their tour, and their visitation of the other quarters of the three kingdoms considered only as collateral branches.

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Our worthy Baronet and his friends had the satisfaction of finding every thing that had been undertaken for the estate, in the best order possible. Every thing had prospered under his favourable auspices : His farms, his fisheries, and every part of his rising establishments, were in a very high state of felicity ; but it was a felicity capable of being still further improved ; and this improvement Sir Gregory's Irish estate now received by his own fostering presence. Whatever could be effected by the most wisely directed munificence, had not been spared ; and it was now seen how capable a fine country is of further augmentation, by the rapid progress which it had made and was making towards complete perfection. Sir Gregory observed it with a tear-felt satisfaction, and literally encouraged all his tenants to continue their exertions in a persevering industry ; observing, that in Ireland, it was capital only that was wanting, to make the Irish a flourishing people ; and in my purse, he continued, shall my tenants be assured of a capital, wherever I perceive capital wanting, and

that it may be of real efficacy.—Sir Gregory's visit to, and residence for some time, amongst his Irish tenantry, was a jubilee to them. Our good Baronet so designed it; but it was a jubilee, in which enterprize, and festivity went hand in hand. They kept pace, exactly, one with the other.

After having remained some weeks, to their very great satisfaction and advantage, in this part of the island, in the bosom of a tenantry which he had, in a great measure, himself raised and nurtured, Sir Gregory and his friends adjourned to the metropolis. At the Castle of Dublin they were received with the highest marks of attention; the Maraboo, in particular, being distinguished by the Lord Lieutenant in such a manner as to do credit to his discernment of character.—Let it suffice to say, that his Lordship's reception of the whole, and every individual in Sir Gregory's suite, was such, as to give them the most perfect satisfaction, and they quitted Dublin with the fullest sense of the Viceroy's politeness and condescension.

In

In Ireland, our travellers visited every thing that usually engages attention and curiosity. Of course the lake of Killarney was not overlooked; and Echo reverberated the notes of the joint sounds of the Maraboo's and Sir Gregory's horns and clarionets. During their visit to Killarney, they were joined by a large party of ladies and gentlemen, who had the preceding day seen them at the Castle, when they were presented. They considered the event as fortunate, which gave opportunity for another interview with the worthy Baronet of Summerfield-hall, and his friends; for in very truth, the fair fame of this excellent man had reached Dublin before his arrival there; and every thing he now did and said, when he was actually seen, contributed to heighten and to establish his character. The mild dignity and benignity of his manners gave an irresistible grace to every action he performed; and indeed, every individual of the party came in, and deservedly, for their share of praise. The African Prince united to great splendour of dress and deportment, the most win-

ning condescension; and our young Edmund, whose person was now completely formed, displayed an animation, that gained him the hearts of every lady who had seen him, and conciliated the esteem of the other sex.—In the progress of our travellers thro' Ireland, many a scene of dire distress, it is but too true, presented itself; and many such were relieved by the munificence of those benevolent travellers, insomuch, that the names of Sir Gregory Gretton, the Maraboo of Senegal, and the young Edmund Summerfield, together with his worthy tutor Mr. Adamson, will be long held in grateful memory in most of the provinces of that kingdom. It is but too true, that the contrast was in most parts of the island invincibly striking, between the tenantry of the excellent Sir Gregory Gretton, and that of any other nobleman or gentleman almost throughout the whole kingdom. Our travellers having taken a complete survey of every part of Ireland, embarked aboard a vessel, which had expressly been engaged by Sir Gregory for the purpose, to make the tour of the He-

brides

brides or Western isles, most of which they took an actual view of ; after which, they were conveyed, by means of the same vessel, to port Glasgow in Scotland, where they disembarked, and proceeded on in their journey to Edinburgh, at which place they arrived, after a most pleasant tour, unattended by any sinister accident. At this northern metropolis of the British Empire, our travellers were agreeably surprized by meeting their honest friend 'Squire Quicksett, accompanied by his son-in-law, Col. Wingfield, who had together made this excursion for the exprefs purpose of joining Sir Gregory and his company.—And so perfectly happy was our honest 'Squire now become, and so completely well contented with his connection with the young Lieutenant-Colonel, that not a word escaped him concerning Gretna-green ; nay, it is said, that as he passed by it, he nodded acquiescingly, saying, with his usual asseveration, “ Oddsheartlikins, I once never thought that I could have lived to have seen the day, when, passing close
by

by the spot where my daughter was noosed, I could view it unaccompanied by one uneasy sensation.

The travelling party were not a little exhilarated by the added society of the honest 'Squire and his son-in-law, who, as they had left the 'Squire's habitation for the sole purpose of meeting them at Edinburgh, now never quitted them, 'till they saw them safely sat down at Summerfield Castle, some months after they had parted from it.



C H A P. XCIII.

OUR good Baronet and his travelling party had the singular felicity, to find, at their return to the Castle, every individual appertaining to the two houses of Gretton and Summerfield, in as high health and as good spirits as when they left them. Even the venerable Mrs. Williamson declared, that the renewed presence of her beloved nephew gave a kind of elasticity to every fibre belonging to her; and she could perceive herself some years younger than she had been for some time past. And the lovely Eleonora, who was rising into the first bloom of beauty, received our travellers, and particularly her favourite Edmund, with almost a transport of joy. The beauty of Eleonora, and her strikingly charming figure, were the least part of her perfection: the sweetness of her disposition, the excellence of her understanding, and the accomplishments of a most finished and admirable plan of education, gave promise that

that she would, in her day, if God continued her life, do as much honour to the conjugal, as she now did to her maiden character. A day, to which both Lady Gretton and our good Baronet seemed to look forward, in all the anxious expectation of parental affection. Our young Edmund being now generally considered as the betrothed consort of the heiress of the Castle; and it now seemed to be the intention of the heads of both houses, that this joyful event should take place as soon as ever our young Edmund should return from his continental tour; a tour, as Sir Gregory expressed himself, "I should be almost inclined to deprecate, from what I have known of young travelled men, did I not repose the highest confidence in the exceeding good heart of Edmund, and the no less good conduct of Mr. Adamson."

On the very next day subsequent to his arrival at Summerfield Castle, the young Edmund made his visit to Myrtle-Grove. It would be doing injustice to the feelings of Lord W—— and those of his

his respectable and amiable sister, Lady Anne, not to notice, that their young friend was received with something beyond his usual welcome : He was received by both with raptures ; and it was with no less reluctance than had been displayed at the Castle, that they consented to lose his society for so long a space of time as two whole years. “ Fashion, and the custom of the great world hath made, observed Lord W—, those sacrifices necessary ; for my own part, I must own, rather than lose our dear Edmund so long, I could have dispensed with following the solemn etiquette ; but the parade of life, it seems, renders it unavoidable, and I submit. I will only hope our dear Edmund will not be persuaded to protract the period of his exile beyond the term of two years, during which time I must beg his acceptance of a clear thousand guineas per annum, in addition to what Dr. Summerfield may have allotted him out of Edmund’s own paternal estate.” Lady Ann also made Edmund a very splendid present : but what he most valued, was her Ladyship’s own miniature picture, richly

ornamented. It was a striking and exact resemblance,

Every thing was now arranged for Edmund's foreign tour, and to the very great joy of both parties, honest Humphry Claggett was, at his own earnest request, permitted to attend, as honest Humphry expressed it, one of the most promising young gentlemen in all England; "for why," he would add, "he not only plays remarkably well at cricket, and single-stick, but he is one of the best schollards, and has one of the best hearts, of any young man of the times, now on their travels into outlandish-countries."

The ceremony of taking leave is always irksome—it is so in narrative; I will therefore cut it short, by only remarking, that when the moment of parting arrived, it was so truly affecting, that the reader shall be spared the representation, and requested only to paint to himself, what he has himself experienced in parting with dear friends, the friends of his early childhood. Such were Edmund's

mund's sensations in parting for the present with all his soul held dear, in particular, with his dear and lovely Eleonora, with whom, however, he was allowed to correspond during their separation; a consolation upon which, with some degree of cheerfulness, Edmund now reposed himself, and with this charming ^{consolation} ~~fe-~~ ~~lation~~ in his thoughts he entered the post-chaise which was to carry him and his worthy tutor to Dover. At Dover they found the packet on the point of sailing, which in a few hours landed our travellers at Calais.



C H A P. XCIV.

THE arrangement, which had been concerted between Dr. Summerfield and the young Edmund's tutor, Mr. Adamson, was the following : Edmund had a clear 500 guineas assigned him by his excellent guardians, together with an appointment of 300 for Mr. Adamson. His retinue consisted of a Valet de Chambrè, who had been recommended to him for tried fidelity, and a perfect master of the French tongue, which indeed was his native language. It comprised also honest Humphry Claggett, who gladly undertook to wait upon Mr. Adamson. And his travelling equipage was a strong, commodious, English built post-chaise, which had been built with every convenience possible, to render travelling easy and agreeable. Edmund's faithful Newfoundland-dog, to whom he had once been indebted for the saving of his life, when he was near drowning in the river Cam, also made one of the party ; and we shall see,

see, in the process of our memoirs, how strikingly useful this half-reasoning creature proved himself, and how providential it was, that this *fidus Achates*, as Edmund would often pleasantly style him, made one of the company. It is almost unnecessary to add, that they had most cordial letters of recommendation to some of the best families in France, from Sir Gregory Gretton, and Lord W—, which, connected with the circumstance, that both Edmund and his tutor spoke French with great correctness, could not fail ensuring our travellers a good reception wherever they came, more particularly, as they were certainly affluent—not indigent travellers. At Paris, therefore, as they could very well afford, they hired a ready furnished hotel for the time they proposed to remain in that capital, as the French term it, of the world. It may, therefore, be readily supposed, that their recommendatory letters, together with their own purity of manners, and propriety of conduct, gave them an easy introduction to the first circles, in which our young Edmund was soon distinguish-

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ed by the flattering epithets of the handsome, the accomplished Englishman. The French, as is well known, possess the talent of flattery to the utmost extent, and had it been in their power, by means of so strong a seduction, to have utterly spoiled and corrupted a good disposition, such spoil and such corruption would have been effected ; but Edmund's heart was not of a temper to yield itself a prey to either sophistry or seduction, and under the guidance of his very excellent tutor, and his own good heart, it was invincible both to the one and the other.— He left, therefore, Paris, after a *sejoûr* in it of two months, unsubdued by either its pleasures or its fallacious reasonings.

They were now to proceed through the interior of France, as their intention was to visit Montpelier, where resided for the present, one of the most intimate friends of Sir Gregory Gretton, his physicians having recommended the south of France as the most probable means of restoring a constitution grievously shattered by a long residence in India. For the express purpose

purpose of shewing attention to this dear friend of Sir Gregory, whose health had been considerably amended by the temperature of the climate, they were now, far on their way to Lyons.

They were, as they calculated, within a single day's journey of that famous emporium of the silk manufacture, when they were, late in the evening, from the circumstance of a most violent storm, under the necessity of soliciting shelter within the walls of a Chateau, whose lights invitingly called them by the hospitality of the master of the mansion. The doors were not impervious to their admission, but readily flew open at the approach of an unhoused stranger. Edmund and his tutor were received by the Duke de — in such manner, as bespoke a most hospitable mind. They were conducted into a most magnificent saloon, and entertained in a style suitable to the grandeur of the apartment. After a very elegant, and indeed sumptuous repast, they were conducted to their respective bed-chambers; the Duke conformable to the fashion which obtained

obtained amongst the ancient nobility of that polite country, himself leading the way to the apartment in which our young Edmund was to repose for the night. The Duke then left him to the care of his Valet, wishing him good rest. The wax lights were ordered to be left, properly secured; the apartment was magnificently hung with tapestry; the Valet retired, and Edmund addressed himself to sleep. His sleep was quickly after he had got to bed, interrupted by (as he thought) some person gliding by the curtains: These he threw open, and could plainly discern a figure take its seat in the corner of the room, in which, on entering it, he had observed no armed chair whatever; there now seemed to be one, and an old gentleman, habited in a robe du chambre, seated in it. Edmund rubbed his eyes, doubting whether it was real or visionary; but as the spectre, if it were one, disturbed not him, Edmund determined not to disturb the spectre, and he courted sleep. In the morning when he arose, there was neither the venerable figure, nor the armed chair in the corner of the room, where
his

his imagination had depicted it. His rest, as might be presumed, had not been perfectly quiet. It was remarked by the Duke, when Edmund entered the breakfasting room. He was asked to make the tour of the Chateau's apartments—The Duke led to the picture-gallery: Edmund, amongst other family portraits, observed here, the same figure which had presented itself the night before to his imagination. He made a full stop, and the Duke smiled—Edmund told his story, and the Duke smiled again. “I smile,” observed the Duke, “because the very identical circumstance has happened to several friends who have slept in the above bed-chamber; the same figure has seemed to descend from its place, and to take a chair in that apartment; neither can any of my family assign any probable cause for this visionary appearance. In the history of my family and its pictures, tradition having handed down nothing more particularly interesting concerning the old gentleman, who seems, for the entertainment of any visitors who may occasionally sleep in that bed-chamber, so fond of

quitting the picture-gallery, than any other of my ancestors. When first I came to reside at my Chateau, the same incident having occurred to almost every visitor who slept in the apartment. An old house-steward, who had lived in the family many years, was so firmly persuaded that the old gentleman in his robe du chambre had to reveal the particular spot which contained much hid treasure, that, to satisfy his curiosity, the floor was taken up and diligently examined; but without any success; nothing was ever discovered, and the solution of this too frequent vision remains to this hour, as mysterious as when I first came to the estate."

Our travellers, after making all proper acknowledgments to this truly hospitable French nobleman, resumed their rout.— They passed through the famous city of Lyons, proceeding, without further delay, to the southern Provinces of France, they arrived safely at Montpellier, and had the satisfaction of finding Sir Gregory's East-Indian friend in a state of convalescence, but were rejoiced by the receipt

ceipt of letters from England, which announced the general state of good health of every individual of the houses of Gretton and Summerfield. The same packet brought also a charming letter from the lovely Eleonora to her transported lover. It assured him of the constancy of her affection for him, and the tender interest she took in every thing which concerned him. She conjured him, for her sake, and the sake of all their friends, to have an especial care of his health, and by no means to extend the time limited for his continuance abroad, beyond the term originally agreed upon. This request, she added, she was desired to enforce by both Lord W— and Lady Anne, who already began anxiously to wish for his return.—After passing a week at Montpelier, they hastened to Marseilles, at which port, they hired a Felucca, which conveyed themselves, their equipage, and the rest of their baggage to Nice; from hence they journeyed to Turin, the capital of Savoy, where the letters of recommendation which they brought from England produced the same

effect which they had at Paris ; and they were, in consequence, well received at the Court of Turin, as travellers of distinction.

From Savoy and Piedmont they passed into Lombardy, visiting of course, Bologna, Parma, Milan and Mantua. From hence they diverged into Tuscany, visiting every thing that was curious in the dominions of the Grand Duke. At Florence, they omitted not to pay their respects to the famous Medicean Venus, and as is acknowledged by every traveller of good taste, had the satisfaction to find the statue infinitely more beautiful than their most sanguine expectations had been taught to suppose it ; and so forcibly did the view of this charming piece of sculpture strike honest Humphry Claggett, who was permitted to attend our travellers to the Florentine, that he advanced towards it, to convince himself by actually touching it, whether the marble, as Humphry expressed himself, was not really alive, only disinclined to move from its pedestal. The Ciceroni who accompanied our
travellers

travellers, was as much delighted with this start of pure nature in honest Humphry, as Humphry had been with the Venus de Medici.

The season of the Venetian Carnival being now nearly approaching, Edmund and his tutor quitted the dominions of the Grand Duke, and by easy stages journey'd to Verona, which they were of necessity to pass in their road to Venice. On their rout they encountered an adventure, which, but for the instinctive forecast of Edmund's Newfoundland-dog, who now became justly entitled to the epithet which his master had given him, of his *fidus Achates*, and the very spirited exertions of the faithful domestic Humphry Claggett, might have ended tragically,

They had been obliged to put up for the night at a small cabarêt, a few miles from Verona. They had supped and had severally retired to their respective bedrooms. Edmund was on the point of stepping into bed, when he felt himself forcibly

forcibly pulled by his Newfoundland-dog, to prevent him from his purpose.— There was something so particular in the anxious efforts of the dog, and his sometimes quitting his master to invite him, as it seemed, to examine a closet at which *Fido* was observed to scratch, as well as smell at it, that Edmund determined to examine the closet; it was with difficulty that he forced it open, and it now presented a very horrible spectacle.— It contained the body of a recently murdered traveller; and in a few moments, by the sudden descending of the bed, it was manifest that a similar fate was awaiting himself. The young Edmund was on this occasion not wanting to himself. His own courage was undaunted; but something more was necessary. The party were all well armed; fortunately the bed-rooms had a communication. Edmund, therefore, collected his little force together, and having observed, that the descent was not very far from the window to the ground; he, as silently as might be, assisted Humphry to descend from it, in order to obtain aid
from

from the neighbouring town, in the mean time forming as strong a barricade as possible for himself and his companions. The banditti had been for some time laying close siege to Edmund's fortification, which must have, in a very few minutes, been forced, but for the propitious arrival of Humphry Claggett and his *posse*, which was by far too strong for the banditti. They were all taken; and it appeared that the master of this Cabarêt had long subsisted upon the plunder and murder of travellers.—They paid the penalty of their crimes at Verona.

It was now the season of high carnival at Venice; Edmund, therefore, and his tutor hastened thither, in order to be spectators of this scene of tumultuous dissipation. They fixed their residence, for the time they meant to continue at Venice, at a celebrated Hotel in St. Mark's place. All orders, but more particularly the Venetian Noblesse, were eagerly running at the ring of pleasure. Masques in a never ceasing succession made their appearance upon the Rialto, and the scene
even

even to a stranger who knew none of the assumed characters, was to the last degree amusing. Some were seen repairing to their respective Caffinas for the purpose of intrigue, while other large parties entered their Gondolas, sailing, or rather rowing, upon the Lignes, to the soft sounds of the flute and other delightful musical instruments. One of these parties had just landed from their Gondola, when Edmund observed a bravo just preparing to plunge his stileto into the bosom of a Masque in a very rich Domino. He was just in time to arrest the arm of the assassin, and in a moment he drew his own sword, and happy was it for our young Edmund, that he had profited abundantly from the fencing lessons of Mr. Adderly; for he now found himself assailed by three Masques, who it was clear had engaged the bravo in this business of assassination. Edmund had retired to the wall of one of the palaces in St. Mark's place, and presented only his front to the assailants. One of these received Edmund's sword quite through his body; another had received a wound

in

in his sword arm, and the third made a hasty retreat—Edmund was unhurt. The gentleman, on whose account this had happened, had by this time secured the assassin, who confessed, that he had been hired by those whom the brave Englishman had discomfited, to murder him, having suspected, but indeed falsely suspected him, with an intrigue with the wife of one of the Masques whom Edmund had so gallantly engaged. To Edmund and his tutor it was a most agreeable surprize, upon the stranger's taking off his masque, to observe, that the life which he had thus so marvellously saved, was the life of a friend with whom he had been intimately acquainted at Paris. It was the Count Radezvil, a Polish nobleman, a near relation of the Polish prince of that name, of the first merit and respectability. After taking proper care of the bravo, that is, after delivering him up to the officers of justice, Edmund and Mr. Adamson retired from this scene of blood, with their friend Count Radezvil, to his Palazzo.—They had here a hint given them, from a quarter the most re-

sponsible, that if they valued their lives, they would do well to withdraw from Venice, as the friends of the gentleman, who had fallen in this conflict with Edmund, had vowed to avenge his death.—Assassination was, at that time, so frequent, in the territories of Venice, that they considered it as a point of prudence not to slight the intimation, but to put themselves as quick as possible, on their rout to Rome.—They left Venice the next day.

Rome and its antiquities have been so often described by the various travel-writers, that to detain not the reader by a repetition of what they may find so much better detailed by *Keyser*, let it suffice to say, that they viewed the curiosities of that once famed capital of the world, with true classical attention. On the banks of the Tiber they remained a full month, receiving from, and writing letters to England, and then journeyed on to Calabria and the kingdom of Naples. From hence, by the Faro of Messina, our travellers were wafted over to the island of Sicily,

Sicily, of which they made the complete tour, under the guidance of that most excellent account given of Sicily by Mr. Brydone, in his elegant book of travels. From Sicily they made an excursion to Malta, on board a Maltese galley, which happened to be invitingly ready to sail, on which occasion they narrowly escaped an engagement with an Algerine corsair of superior strength to themselves, and were solely indebted for their escape to swift sailing. After paying their respects to the Grand Master, and the ^{Knights} King of the Order, by whom Edmund and his tutor were most superbly entertained, they embarked aboard a vessel bound to Barcelona in Spain, at which port they were safely and speedily landed. At this famous capital of Catalonia, they met a party of English travellers, who, like themselves, were meaning to make the tour of Spain, at the least to visit Madrid and the palace of the Escorial. Thither therefore they directed their course, totally disregarding all the little inconveniences of the ill-accommodations to be met with in the Spanish ventos. In the

course of their journey, they were infinitely entertained by a party of young gipsy-girls, who danced fandangos and fescuendados, with inimitable grace and agility. Humphry Claggett, who never stirred from the side of his master, declaring, that next to a good match of cudgel playing, the gipsy-dance was the best thing he had seen during their travels.



CHAP.

C H A P. XCV.

THEY arrived at Madrid, that is, Edmund, his tutor, and the English travelling party, which had accompanied them from Barcelona, at the very moment, when the Court and all orders of both men and women, were in a state of the highest glee, at the approach of a solemn bull-feast. The reader hardly requires to be informed, that this vestige of ancient chivalry is still preserved in Spain and Portugal, and it is regarded as an achievement of the highest prowess, and the greatest proof of knightly hardihood, to encounter, upon these occasions, one of these Spanish bulls. The combat of the cavaliers is on horseback, and is often fatal to both horse and man; as the poor animal who is to be encountered, is stimulated to the conflict by every artifice ingenious cruelty can possibly devise.— Suddenly let loose from his dark cavern, he is, on all sides, assailed by the shouts and clapping of hands of a vast multitude
of

of both sexes. And if he shews any disinclination to engage, there are ^{Tauriers} Tauriers, who have been bred from their infancy to the trade, who goad the reluctant animal forwards, and force him to meet the lance of the mounted cavalier. To the Spaniards, the slaughter of many a poor bull, in the course of the day, was a spectacle which seemed to occasion transports of joy and admiration, but to our English travellers, more especially the young Edmund and his tutor, the exhibition excited only disgust. They beheld the cavaliers, who thus exposed their own lives, and the lives of the beautiful steeds on which they rode, to the fortuitous incursions of a bull's horns, with a silent astonishment, almost bordering upon contempt; and they were nearly ready to acquiesce in the fervent wish of honest Humphry Claggett, who was heard to exclaim, during every battle, "for my part, I wish well to the bull; poor beast, he can't help it; he is forced to do his utmost. As to the knights, as they are called, if they get themselves or their horses killed, 'tis all their own faults, 'tis of their own

own seeking, and they may take it for their pains—but for the poor bulls, I pity them from the bottom of my heart. The most part of them seeming to me disposed to be properly tame and quiet, if the fools of Spaniards would but suffer them to remain so.”—And when honest Humphry had been witness to a cavalier’s being carried off the field sorely wounded, he was overheard to declare, that “he had very little pity for the simple Don, who, without any necessity, had voluntarily exposed himself to be gored by the horns of a bull, enraged almost to madness, only for the sport and amusement of people still more mad than the poor bulls.” At this very superb bull-fête was sacrificed no less than twenty-seven bulls; three very capital horses had their entrails torn out; one Knight or Cavalier was mortally, and another slightly wounded; and this was considered by the Court, and all the people of Madrid, as a most august, most delightful spectacle. Our travellers returned from it with the most marked abhorrence, and they lost no time in returning to the very handsome house
 which

which had been hired for them by, and was adjoining to that of, the British Ambassador.

The Ambassador was a very particular friend of Lord W——; he had, in consequence, received letters from that nobleman, who had been apprized of our travellers' design to visit the Court of Spain, earnestly recommending the young Edmund, whom he styled his adopted heir, to his Excellency's very especial regard. His Lordship's letter had its full weight, and Edmund and his tutor were received and introduced at Court, with every mark of consideration. They were, in particular, greatly noticed by the Duke of Medina Sidoná, the very intimate and cordial friend of the British Ambassador. Under his auspices they went through all the solemn etiquette of a presentation, in form, to the King, Queen, and the other branches of the Royal family of Spain.

There was something in the grave, manly deportment of the young Edmund Summerfield, so different from the light
frivolous

frivolous manners of the French noblesse, who had been so frequently seen at the Spanish Court, as to engage him strongly to the estimation of every estimable Grandee of the Court. Amongst these none ranked higher than the Duke of Medina Sidonia; and this truly excellent nobleman was pleased to receive the young Edmund and his tutor into habits of almost confidential intimacy—they had a general invitation to the Duke's table and his parties, which consisted always of the very best company of Madrid. The Spaniards, and particularly the old Spanish nobility, hold bravery in the first degree of esteem.—By some means, perhaps by the other young Englishmen of the party, the history of Edmund's gallant defence of the Count Radezvil, had been told, and had been heard, highly to his honour.—The particulars had been requested from Mr. Adamsom, who found himself under a necessity to give the whole detail of the transaction. It acquired Edmund the epithet of the brave Englishman; and the story being now publickly known, the

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modesty with which he accepted the praises bestowed upon him by the Spanish nobility, was no less conspicuous and amiable, than had been his courage, which he had displayed at the Venetian carnival; but the Duke de Medina Sidonia, who had himself been distinguished by several very heroic achievements, attached himself to the young English traveller by every mark of the most friendly, the most paternal affection. He not only invited Edmund and his tutor to all his parties and entertainments, but, having heard their design of visiting the Escorial, the Duke invited himself to be of their party, and made it his request, that they would permit him to escort them to that famous monastery in his own equipage. The request was too flattering not to be readily accepted.

It ought to have been stated, that the Duke of Medina Sidonia's family, consisted of the Duchess, her daughter donna Isabella, a young Lady of about eighteen years of age, and her governess, a very respectable matron. As the Court was

was at this time to be for a few weeks at the palace of the Escorial, the Duke yielded to the solicitation of the Ladies, that they might accompany him, and his fellow travellers; so delightful a society rendered the party infinitely agreeable—but it might have been infinitely dangerous to the peace of donna Isabella, had she not been apprized by her governess, that the brave, accomplished young English cavalier was engaged by most solemn ties, to be married to a young English lady, as soon as he should return to his own country. The knowledge of it was enough to repress in a breast of such perfect purity, as that of the Duke's daughter, any sentiments, but those of friendship and esteem; our young Edmund was therefore considered by this whole charming family, under the endearing relation of a brother.

The palace of the Escorial, it is known, possesses, without exception, the finest collection of pictures that is to be met with in all Europe. In particular, it is peculiarly rich in the pictures of that

very fine painter Murillo. But it has been also highly indebted to England for some of the choicest paintings which it has to boast of. It is well known, that the unfortunate Charles I. of England was a great amateur^{amateur} of the fine arts. He had formed one of the most capital collections of any prince in Christendom. After his tragical death, his palace of whitehall was ransacked by the usurping government, and the pictures were sold to those who could afford to purchase them; a great part of them were bought for the King of Spain, and now form a principal part of the cabinet of pictures in the palace of the Escorial—in particular, for the Vandyke paintings, the Escorial had been altogether indebted to the picture gallery formed by the unfortunate Charles I. at whitehall. The palace of the Escorial is in a very singular style of architecture; as it was built in consequence of a vow made at the battle of St. Quintin, which was fought upon the anniversary of St. Lawrence's martyrdom; it is not only dedicated to that saint, but in order to do him the
more

more especial honour, it is constructed, so as to represent at every point of view, a gridiron, the mode, according to the legend, by which St. Lawrence was put to death; the saint having been, as the legend states, extended upon, and broiled alive upon a gridiron. As the court was at present at the Escorial, it gave Edmund and his tutor the opportunity of once more paying their respects to the Spanish monarch. They had their audience of leave, as they were, on the morrow to take their departure for Lisbon, from whence, it was their purpose to embark for England—letters which they just now received from thence, having recommended to them to shorten their tour, if Edmund wished ever again to behold alive, the venerable Mrs. Williamson, who had, lately seemed declining in her health, and who had expressed an earnest desire once more to embrace her beloved Edmund, before her final retiring from this life. These letters of recal Edmund presented to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, as the reason of their abruptly quitting Spain, they therefore hastily
took

took leave of this truly respectable Spanish nobleman and his family, from whom they had not only received so many marks of favour during their residence at Madrid, but who extended their kindness to them by favouring them with commendatory letters to some of the principal nobility of the kingdom of Portugal.



C H A P. XCVI.

THE young Edmund and his tutor now lost not a moment in obeying the urgent letters of recall, which so anxiously demanded their immediate return to England—they made therefore the proper dispositions, and by the help of four excellent mules which Edmund had received as a present from his friend the Duke de Medina Sidonia, attached to his own excellent English carriage which he still retained, he repaired with the utmost expedition, across that part of Spain, which intervenes between that country and Portugal. He suffered no call of curiosity to delay him upon the road, and he halted only at the different ventos from motives of humanity, in order that his servants and the beasts on which they rode, might be properly refreshed. In due time they arrived at the celebrated city of Lisbon, and to their great joy were immediately informed, that a ship bound to the port of London

London had nearly completed her cargo, and would be ready to sail in a few days. This interval they employed in viewing the curiosities of the capital of Portugal, nor was it omitted to present the letters entrusted to them by the Duke of Medina Sidonia to the Portuguese chief minister the Marquis de P.—they ensured the travellers a most gracious reception, who readily granted them the necessary passports to embark aboard the British ship, whose great cabin they had engaged:—they were to enter the vessel on the first blush of the morning—to this end, the greater part of their baggage had been already deposited in the ship, and Humphry Claggett had, ^{been} carrying on his shoulder, the last remaining article, which was a leather valize belonging to Mr. Adamson:—he was standing with it for a moment upon the quay, when he was accosted by a man, who with a threatening aspect demanded it from him, at the same time shewing him his poignard:—the ruffian was too well understood by honest Humphry, who signified to him by
 signs

signs which he could easily comprehend, that he only wished for a few moments respite, and his commands should be obeyed—the assassin turned from him, to give poor Humphry the time requisite for a short prayer. On the quay whereon they were standing, had been arranged many pipes of Madeira wine, ready for embarkation—and providentially the cooper had left behind him his adze—most joyfully did it present itself to poor Humphry, who eagerly seizing it, at one blow cleft the head of the robber, who, as has been observed, had turned his back upon Humphry—thus was our poor Humphry saved, and a murderous villain destroyed. What was to be done with the body?—in an instant Humphry Claggett took his measures,—by means of the same adze with which he had dispatched the bravo, he now knocked off the head of one of the full pipes of Madeira, into which he hastily plunged the robber, again carefully heading up the wine cask—he then repaired aboard with his valize, doubly happy in having preserved his own life, and possibly a valuable property belonging Mr. Adamson.

C H A P. XCVII.

AFTER a quick and pleasant passage of fourteen days, our travellers were safely landed at the port of Southampton, to which the vessel had been bound. After taking a slight refreshment at the Southampton Inn, they hastened to pay the duty of affection and respect at the castle of Summerfield—they had the satisfaction to find every branch both of Summerfield and Gretton, in perfect health, saving the venerable Mrs. Williamson, who was still living, but gradually drooping, tho' with all her senses and faculties as vivid as when in full health:—she eagerly enquired for her beloved Edmund; he was introduced to her bed side “I am happy” said this admirable woman, “that I once more am permitted to embrace my dearest Edmund, before I go hence—it was all I had to wish, and God has granted my prayer” Eleonora was standing in a mournful attitude near the bed, and she pressed

pressed one of her almost clay-cold hands to her bosom: the good Mrs. Williamson was sensibly affected—"have I?" said she, addressing herself to Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, "have I" she faintly repeated "my dear nephew and niece your permission again to join the hands of these amiable young creatures?—I presume I have your permission, and therefore," placing one of the lovely Eleonoras' hands in the hand of the happy Edmund—"now" she continued "I have lived long enough—my utmost wish is gratified, nothing more remains but to declare, and I beg it may be never forgot, that to a christian, death is a consummation devoutly to be wished—I go to the bosom of my Father, of my God"—these were the last words of this truly venerable lady, and with one gentle sigh she expired. The tears shed by Sir Gregory for the loss of this truly affectionate aunt, were most abundant. "Long very long" sobbed out our good Baronet—"have I been acquainted with the worth of that dear departed saint, she was the warm and steady friend of

my early youth—whatever excellencies partial friends may impute to me, to her lessons am I indebted for them; her munificent assistances largely contributed to lay the foundation of my rising fortunes, and her virtues principally by my observation on them, taught me how to enjoy them. During my residence in India, my regular correspondence with this dearly beloved aunt, fortified me in every good resolution, and had I not been restrained by the ties of honour and religion, from taking any undue advantages in trade, the sense of lessening myself in that dear good woman's opinion, would have been fully sufficient to have kept me from deviating from the paths of moral rectitude—peace, venerable shade, to thy ever honoured ashes, sacred shall be thy memory to thy sorely afflicted nephew—the example of thy spotless life taught me how to live, and the example of thy placid death, shall teach thy nephew how to die.”

At the express desire of this excellent lady, a spacious vault had been constructed

fructed, as near as possible to the body of a beautiful Yew-tree, in Summerfield churchyard "I cant endure the thoughts" had she been frequently heard in her illness to exclaim, "of an interment within the walls of a place, which ought solely to be devoted to the worship of the living God, and never to be polluted by the entombing of a wretched, perishing mortal; for this reason, for fear, out of a mistaken notion of respect, my surviving friends might inhume me within the pale of any sacred edifice, in my life time I have taken care to mark the spot where I mean finally for my body to repose; under the shade of my favourite yew."

When soldiers, or indeed any men of war expire, it is the custom to bury them, as it is exprest, with the honours of war—and when venerable matrons quit this world "they I think" remarked Sir Gregory Gretton, in a conversation held with Lady Gretton and Mrs. Summerfield, on the mournful occasion, "should be buried with such matronly honours,

as would have been most congenial to their characters when living: benevolence and humanity, marked ever the conduct of our excellent aunt, the poor have in her death lost a benefactress—but let us take care, that she may still live in their grateful memory. To each and every widow in the two parishes of Summerfield and Hawthorn-dale, shall be given a complete suit of mourning, in which she shall attend our good aunts funeral, and to each poor family in the two parishes, shall be given forty shillings; the families to be selected by the Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield, and I believe,” he added, “I need scarcely hint, that I could wish our friend the Doctor should pronounce, for the benefit of all who hear him, a solemn eulogy of her character at the time of our dear aunts obsequies.” In the drawer of the venerable Mrs. Williamson’s writing table, was found a paper, on which was inserted this title, “*the last will and testament of me Mary Williamson :*” “her whole and entire fortune she gives and devises to her dearly beloved nephew Sir Gregory Gretton, assigning

assigning for it this especial reason, because, that from long and renewed observation on his character and conduct, she verily believed no one knew better than himself the true use and value of fortune—and from the high opinion she entertained of his wisdom and discretion, she made it entirely optional in him to apply or not, the several annuities and bequests contained in the paper as above—all her wearing apparel she desired might be given to her very trusty and excellent servant Catherine Fawcett, together with mourning and a life annuity of fifty pounds if Sir Gregory should so approve. She desired that one hundred guineas to each, might be assigned to Mr. Adderly and to Mr. Walter Rosemary, as a token of acknowledgement for the part they had in the education of her great niece, Eleonora Gretton, and she requested the sum of 500£. might be presented to Mrs. Richards who had so faithfully pursued the plan recommended by her sister Mrs. Tomlyn—a plan of tuition so admirably adopted to render a young lady an honour to her sex, with
 a similar

a similar sum to Mr. Adamson the tutor of Edmund—the venerable lady expressed a wish that 50 Guineas should be presented to Mr. Hawkby her apothecary, as an acknowledgement for his very careful and regular attendance during her illness, and that 20*l.* might be assigned the good Mrs. Sagely, who had for some time attended her as nurse, but, (she adds) subject to be added to, or diminished from, in each instance, agreeable to the opinion of my dearly beloved nephew Sir Gregory Gretton, in whose judgment I rather confide than in my own.” The reader need scarcely be informed that every tittle of her will was faithfully complied with—that the good Lady’s funeral was solemnly performed by Dr. Summerfield, who in a most excellent and appropriate discourse, as clearly and distinctly, as his involuntary sobbings would permit him, did ample justice to the virtuous and religious character of the admirable Mrs. Williamson “her benignity,” the Doctor remarked was so diffusive, that misery and distress were never known to plead in vain, and yet so discriminative in her
choice

choice of those who were the objects of her selected bounty, that it was a certain proof of distinguished merit, to have been one of the regular annuitants to the venerable lady whose obsequies we are now celebrating."

It should have been mentioned, that Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton, their lovely daughter Eleonora, the young Edmund Summerfield, and at their particular request, Lord W—— and his sister Lady Anne, made part of the funeral procession, together with all the servants of each family, in deep mourning, and suitable to the sorrowful occasion: a solemn dirge was set, and performed by Mr. Adderley and a select band of excellent voices.

"It only now remains" observed Lady Gretton, on their return to the Castle, "that as our dear aunt at her own express desire, was buried in a vault close beside her favourite yew-tree, that we think of some apposite epitaph for her, to be recited on a monument which Mr. Walter

6

BENEATH THE SHADE OF THIS YEW-TREE.

REPOSE THE REMAINS

Who approached as nearly to PERFECTION, as FRAIL
HUMANITY is capable of.

◆◆◆◆◆

ÆTAT 83.

CHAP.

C H A P. XCVIII.

A New order of things was now soon to take place at Summerfield Castle, our young Edmund was returned from his continental tour, highly improved in his figure and manners “and what more especially delights us all” observed his very respectable uncle in a conversation with Lord W—— and Lady Anne at Myrtle Grove, relative to the arrangements to take place, on the approaching marriage between Lord W——’s adopted heir and the charming heiress of the house of Gretton. “What above all ought to rejoice us, Edmund returns to his own country, to the bosom of his family and friends, with his morals unimpaired by the vices too often attached to foreign travels, he returns with his religious principles as pure, and his honour as untainted, as when he left England.”

Hawthorn Dale had been for some time past (for which our good Baronet

T t 2

frankly

frankly acknowledged himself principally indebted to the very sedulous and shrewd superintendence of Walter Rosemary) in the completest and most finished state of repair; indeed it had been highly embellished, the house, the park, the wood, the water of the lake, all wore an aspect of the highest taste and affluence, and in their picture gallery, which was one of the finest rooms at the dale, Sir Gregory and his Lady, might, without exaggeration, have to boast, that they possessed, if not the most numerous, yet certainly one of the choicest collections of paintings, of any private family in the three kingdoms: but what above all our good Baronet and his Lady most valued, was a large family piece at the upper end of the gallery, painted by the famous Liotarde; it contained the joint portraits of the heads of the houses of Gretton and Summerfield, together with the portrait of the venerable Lady Mrs. Williamson; she was drawn in the act of joining the hands of the young Edmund and the lovely Eleonora; an union, to which
Sir

Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton seemed joyfully to consent, a consent which appeared to have diffused a glow of serene benignity over the countenance of Lord W—— and Lady Anne, whom the painter at their particular desire, had introduced into this family conversation piece —The figures being all at their full length, this fine picture occupied the whole upper part of the picture gallery: —Liotarde had employed his utmost skill to do justice to a composition, which, it was evident, and, indeed he himself acknowledged it, that he had painted, *con amour*.

Every arrangement having now been made for our good Baronet's removal to his magnificent residence of Hawthorn-dale, Lord W—— observed, "that it was high time for him to relinquish his seat in parliament in favour of his adopted heir, Edmund Summerfield, if the county would please, of which he made little doubt, to accept so unacceptationable a young man; it is a plan, my dear Mr. Summerfield," addressing himself to the
worthy

worthy rector, "which you know, has been nearest my heart, ever since our Edmund had completed his education, you will therefore do me the favour to have the county called together, when I mean to signify my intention of retiring altogether from public life, if my constituents will be pleased to accept of the substitute I have provided for them;—I am already possessed of the means to vacate my seat, without applying to the Minister for the Chiltern hundreds, a certain noble Duke having promised to appoint me to the agency of the regiment which has the honour of being commanded by so excellent an officer as his Grace;—you will therefore, my dear Doctor, call our friends together with all possible celerity."

A requisition to the high Sheriff having been signed by the two county Members, the honest 'Squire Quicksett, Mr. Musgrave, Dr. Summerfield, and divers other friends, it produced the desired effect. The county was called together, and full and frequent was the assembly

Lord,

Lord W—— addressed them, stating to them his design in calling them together—he told them, “that however by God’s blessing upon the medicinal powers of Electricity, he had been tolerably well restored to health, yet, did he find it necessary to his quiet, and indeed to his constitution, to retire from public life—that, it had ever been his intention, to surrender his county trust into better hands than his own, so soon as his adopted heir, the young Edmund Summerfield should have approved himself worthy to receive so solemn a deposit—my adopted son Edmund is now” continued his Lordship “of full age, and is all and every thing, that the fondest parent could wish in a beloved son—you all,” observed Lord W—— “know his family—you know that he comes of a good stock—and I now am proud to say, that my adopted heir Edmund does high honour to the stock from whence he is sprung, and I wish, “laying his hand upon his heart,” that if the county now do me the honour to accept my dear Edmund upon my recommendation,

dation, and should I be so fortunate to have my proposition seconded, he may never, in the future progress of his life, do any thing to disgrace their choice."

Lord W——'s speech was seconded by the honest 'Squire Quicksett, "who rose" he said, "with heart felt joy, to support a measure, which, in his soul he thought would be a real benefit, not only to the county, but to old England itself, dearly" continued the honest 'Squire, "do I love Edmund Summerfield and his family, but I love my country still better, it rejoiced every cockle of my heart, to hear the noble Lord who has just set down, he has given us proofs by every vote in parliament since his last election, that he too loves his country—aye," added the 'Squire, "that he loves it, if possible as well as his worthy colleague Sir Gregory Gretton, and I now consider it as a fresh proof, how sincerely he loves the constitution of his country by wishing to give our good friend Sir Gregory Gretton, (who, from my heart I think one of the best men in the whole world) an associate, whom

whom—many of us have known from his childhood, and who never was guilty of a single act for which he had reason to be ashamed, or which could call for a blush from any friend to the Summerfield family;—I therefore” concluded the good ‘Squire “most cordially second my friend Lord W—’s, (as I am now protested the ‘Squire proud to call him) nomination of Edmund Summerfield, as a young man altogether proper to be joint in the county representation with that princely-minded man Sir Gregory Gretton.”—Mr. Quicksett sat down highly applauded. When the nomination was announced by the Sheriff, every hand in the whole assembly was held up, and the freeholders in the lower part of the hall shouted their acquiescence:—the meeting had literally been unanimous, in favour of the young candidate, who now himself came forward.—There was in the young Edmund, a manner as well as figure so engagingly graceful, that he captivated all hearts and prepossessed them in his favour;—his voice was musical, his language modest, his action impressive, he

was heard with profound attention:—he spoke to this effect—“it would ill become him,” he said, “an untried young man, to make great professions, he wished rather to be tried by his actions—of one thing he could assure his friends and the country, that, as the knowledge of the constitution had been a material part of his education, he should endeavour to support and maintain it, by steadily treading in the steps of his highly honoured colleague, by whose example he should ever fashion his own political conduct—and the model of whose private life should also be the regular, the constant guide of his own; that I have thus, at my early entrance into life been unanimously nominated, I can never advert to, but with the highest gratitude—it shall ever remain first in my recollection—neither will I ever give my vote or raise my voice in the senate of my country, without recalling to my mind, that I am indebted for the honour of being placed there, to the free unpurchased suffrages of my countrymen, whom I am now to intreat to accept my most grateful thanks
and

and sincere acknowledgements." Edmund's speech received great encomiums. Sir Gregory Gretton rose amidst a tumult of acclamation, and so loud and so long were the plaudits of the freeholders, that it was a considerable time before a sufficient silence could be obtained, for his speech to be heard;—at length their joy at the sight of a man so deservedly popular, subsided, and a loud voice from the lower part of the hall exclaimed, "hear him, hear our beloved member Sir Gregory Gretton, hear the man who loves his country and whom we all therefore love." The good Baronet said, "his sensibilities of the kind regard and attention of his constituents, in favour of a man who pretends to no other merit than good and honest intentions, almost overpowered him, and almost deprived him of utterance; beyond calculation" said he "brother freeholders, are my obligations on my own account,—they are now rendered nearly infinite, by your having given me a colleague, in whose behalf I have no doubt in pledging myself, (if he wanted any security but his

own virtues) that Edmund Summerfield will never commit a single act as a public man, that you, or I, brother freeholders, will have reason to wish uncommitted. The noble Lord who has thought proper to adopt Edmund as his heir, and who has now resigned his seat in Parliament in his favour—(I speak it with regret) I am now no longer to consider as my colleague, but I shall ever honour him as my dear friend; I repeat, I speak it with regret, that I lose his friendly assistance in the senate of our country, because sure I am that they would have continued to have been as steadily given, as hitherto they have been, from the moment you did us the high honour of appointing Lord W——, and myself your joint representatives—my hope and my trust, and indeed it is my only consolation in having thus lost him, that Edmund Summerfield will in every point and instance of his political character as your substitute, uniformly conduct himself, as I am confident, Lord W—— would have done, with the firmness of a real patriot."

As

As Sir Gregory Gretton sat down, Dr. Summerfield motioned as though he was inclined to rise—and a hundred voices cried out hear him, hear Justice Summerfield! hear, exclaimed the orator, who had before from the lower part of the hall distinguished himself—"hear the guardian and tutor of our young member—hear the man who has made Summerfield what we now see him."

The good Doctor felt himself encouraged by the warm applauses of the honest freeholders; as chairman of the quarter sessions, an honour which he had now reputably enjoyed for a considerable time past, the Doctor had been in the habit of public speaking,—he therefore addressed the assembly with more than his wonted energy;—"he thanked them, he said, he most cordially thanked them, for their attachment to the house and name of Summerfield; nearly as I am "continued the Doctor" allied in blood to the present head of that house, and whom you have just now elected your member with an unanimity, an obligation

ligation which while I retain my faculties, I shall ever recollect with the most lively gratitude, yet, this gentlemen, I will assure you, that had I not been able, as the guardian and educator of Edmund Summerfield, to bear an honest testimony in favour of his character and qualities, I would myself have come forward, and protested against your unanimity—my own suffrage should have been given against the object of your choice; happy I am to have it to say, that I can bear testimony, honest testimony in his favour; my nephew is every thing I could wish him, every thing that you, and indeed, all honest and virtuous minds could figure to yourselves, as a fit and proper colleague, to be joined to so great and good a man as Sir Gregory Gretton." The assembly broke up, with an invitation of Lord W—— to permit him to have the honour of entertaining them at an adjoining tavern, and to give a dinner at each principal Inn in the town to the freeholders at large, in honour of their new member his young kinsman, and adopted heir Edmund Summerfield

Summerfield. Lord W—— was upon this joyous occasion, in the highest spirits imaginable, and the honest 'Squire Quicksett was almost beside himself with rapture, "odds heartlikins" exclaimed the good 'Squire, "this is a day, son Wingfield," addressing himself to the young colonel of the guards, who was seated next him "this is a day, which, some years since I never expected to live to be present at, but I have lived to see it, and to enjoy it—all brought about by the good conduct and example of Sir Gregory Gretton; the unaffected patriotism of that virtuous unspoiled nabob was so bewitching, that it has thoroughly cured Lord W—of every disorder that he had caught from the contagion of a court, as completely as we observe to our high satisfaction, his Lordship has been cured of his palsy, by his electrifying doctor, honest Walter Rosemary, who I am glad to see seated not far from our friend, and preparing himself for a hearty stroke at the Myrtle Grove venison, with which his Lordship has very plentifully supplied us. "Odzookers," continued the

'Squire

'Squire, "I would risque for the sake of the experiment, for once to be in that fellow's company, in order to try what effect, so large a company of good and sound men, might have upon such a blasted character as Dungarvon; at least, it would be curious to see how so corrupt a being as that Scotchman, would feel himself in a society, where every soul in it is so unlike himself." Colonel Wingfield laughingly remarked, "he should despair of all success from any such experiment, for he believed Dungarvon to be so devotedly corrupt, as to be beyond the reach of even electricity itself." All further conversation, was for the present put an end to, by Sir Gregory's French-horns and clarionetts announcing the approach of dinner; Humphry Claggett headed the cavalcade of dishes, as he had intended to continue in the service of his good young master, a request which Edmund could not refuse, more especially, as honest Humphry had lost his wife, during their foreign tour, and it was now pretty generally supposed, that he was a suitor, and indeed a favoured

favoured suitor to Kitty, who had so well merited the annuity bequested to her by her mistress, the venerable Mrs. Williamson; and honest Humphry was at times heard to say, "that, he was not without hopes of persuading Kitty to take as her spouse, the host of the Summerfield arms, at the same time and hour that his young master should be made happy, by receiving the hand of his dear young lady." But in the whole company no person was observed to be in higher spirits than the worthy Mr. Musgrave, he had on the preceding day received letters by the India packet, of the most favourable kind concerning his son, who, through the interest of Sir Gregory had been recently appointed to a post of such trust and importance, as could not fail to ensure his making a fortune in India in a few years; these letters spoke highly also of his character. Mr. Musgrave had likewise received the most flattering accounts of his other son, the London merchant—so well had he succeeded in some late mercantile adventures, that he now thought of looking out for a wife,

and it was supposed, that he was a candidate and not unsuccessfully so, for the fair hand of Miss Quicksett, the unmarried daughter of the honest 'Squire, and sister to the married Mrs. Wingfield.

Amongst other toasts given by Lord W—— who with great propriety, was, upon this occasion placed in the chair, one was, “may the parliamentary union which we have this day given to the county, be the happy and speedy prelude to an union of a still closer, and more tender kind” the toast was drank under a triple discharge of huzzas, and flourish of the french horns and clarionets—clearly conveying to the company an event, which might soon be expected to take place. Sir Gregory smiled most meaningly upon young Edmund, as he did justice to the toast; Lord W—— at the same time seeming to express by his looks, that every thing should be as cheerfully done, on his part, towards effecting the conjugal, as he had that day endeavoured to do towards rendering stable, a political union in the county

—Edmund

—Edmund bowed gracefully to each, and the company broke up in full expectation of an approaching matrimony in the houses of Gretton and Summerfield.



C H A P. XCIX.

IN truth every thing was now ripening towards a consummation devoutly wished, not only by the younger branches, but the heads of both families. Lord W—'s estates had been so prudently managed by the excellent and honest Mr. Selby, that his Lordship was able to give up 4000*£*. a year at the present, to his adopted son, leaving to himself a very respectable residue, for the support of his rank and family at Myrtle Grove; his estate in Ireland having been in like manner managed, had in like manner prospered with that of Sir Gregory's:—with respect to any town residence, he no longer required it, parliament demanded not his attendance, and a country life agreed the best with his constitution, and was most to the taste of his sister Lady Anne.

As soon as with proper regard to the convenience of Lady Gretton it could be effected,

effected, - that is in fine soon after the interment of their aunt Mrs. Williamson, Sir Gregory and his family removed from their residence at Summerfield Castle; to the now splendid edifice of Hawthorn Dale; Lady Gretton observing to our young Edmund when they quitted the castle "we make it a matter of no merit, my dear Edmund, that we leave the Castle in a better state than we found it, and indeed somewhat more elegantly furnished; we remove nothing, for we leave our improvements to those who we hold still dearer than ourselves; improvements in effect, which Sir Gregory and myself hope often to enjoy, in the beloved society of Edmund and our dear Eleonora,—who in changing her name of Gretton for that of Summerfield, will consider Hawthorn Dale and the Castle, like the exchange of names, as one and the same—indeed, we trust, that for the remainder of our lives, Myrtle Grove, Summerfield Castle, Summerfield Parsonage, and Hawthorn Dale, may be regarded as ^{partes quarree} ~~partes quartus~~--as partees quarreê, in all our affections I am sure they will." We have

have omitted to mention that in compliance with the taste of Lady Gretton, who had a natural predilection for that stile of architecture to which she had been accustomed in India, Sir Gregory had constructed one of the fronts of Hawthorn Dale-house, after the Asiatic manner, with a VIRANDA;—it ought also to have been recited, that in the picture gallery were two other very magnificent family pieces, painted by the same hand as had drawn the one at the upper end of the apartment, namely each picture by the famous Liotarde; the piece designed to answer to, or correspond with that of Mrs. Williamson joining the hands of Edmund and Eleonora, was congenial to it in its subject and composition, it was at the lower end of the gallery, directly opposite to the former, and it was meant to depicture the Tiger adventure at Patna, at Mr. Fitzallen's villa:—the painter had described Eleonora as just recovering from the fit, into which she had fallen, at the imminent danger of her lover.—Mr. Fitzallen was drawn, hanging over his daughter, and with
looks

looks of cordial gratitude, presenting her hand to her gallant preserver; at the feet of the young conquering Hero, whose very look spoke unutterable love, lay an enormous Bengal Tiger, slain by the successful discharge of Mr. Gretton's fusil; this charming picture was of equal size with that at the upper end of the gallery, and all the figures in it, as in the other, were at their full length; exactly in the center of the gallery, was suspended a third excellent piece, painted by the same master; and in a similar frame with the two other family paintings, it was designed to record the restoration of Lord W—— to health by the means of electricity;—in it was seen Mr. Walter Rosemary, in the act of electrifying the noble Lord, his sister Lady Anne looking anxiously on, Mr. Adamson and his pupil the young Edmund, were drawn standing by the Peer, whose hand was placed upon the head of his adopted heir, as if in the very act of adoption; they were all pictures of consummate merit, and nobly was Liotarde paid for them by the munificent

ificent Sir Gregory—he received 500 guineas for each—they were all the three in very costly burnished gold frames, which encreased their expence to the amount, nearly of 2000*l*. including the sum paid for them to Liotarde; who had been enabled to give so striking a likeness of Mr. Fitzallen, the father of Lady Gretton, by the fortunate circumstance of a portrait said to exhibit a very faithful resemblance of that respectable gentleman, having been drawn for him at Patna, and for which he had sat to one who was reputed to be the first portrait painter in India,—this picture her Ladyship had brought with her when she returned to England; of the other pictures which adorned this truly elegant and magnificent gallery, we make no particular mention, let it suffice to say, that they were most of them history pieces, painted by the most capital masters of ancient and modern times, they were in the highest state of preservation, and superbly framed; interspersed amongst them however, were, the portraits of certain great and eminent characters, such

such as Locke, Newton, the great Lord
Lyttleton, and Mr. West, who had in-
structed the world by their writings, and
benefited it by their lives and examples.



C H A P. C.

SIR Gregory and Lady Gretton, as we have some time since intimated, had removed from the Castle to Hawthorn Dale; when they thus quitted Summerfield as the general place of their residence, they had left this castellated mansion in the most perfect state of elegant repair; nor had they permitted any part of the furniture, which they had thought proper to add to any of its apartments, during their abode in it, to be transferred to the Dale, when they transferred themselves and their household to that delightful spot. Our young Edmund therefore, when he fixed himself at Summerfield Castle, found every room decorated by Lady Gretton, in the truest style of modern taste, and the offices and stables in the most perfect and appropriate order—the gardens, and grounds also bore evident proofs that they were indebted for their disposition, to the fancy and judgment of the same excellent designer,
Lady

Lady Gretton, in addition to all which, owing to the munificent, and considerate care of our good Baronet, Edmund commenced his housekeeping at the seat of his ancestors, with his cellars as completely stocked with every sort of liquor, requisite for the table of any private gentleman of the first condition, in the three kingdoms. It has been noticed, that during the time of his attendance upon the young 'Squire, while he was making his continental tour, honest Humphry Claggett had lost his wife, the hostess of the Summerfield arms, the house had however been reserved by Doctor Summerfield, as had been, the office of parish clerk, and the post of huntsman to Lady Gretton's beagles, till Humphry might return from his travels; his honours were all now restored to him, and honest Humphry, though he was observed to wipe away a tear when he left the castle, remarking as he made his bows, on retiring, "he believed he should not have survived the quitting the young 'Squire's service, so dearly did he love him, had not the kind hearted Kitty, the favourite

domestic of the late venerable Mrs. Williamson, consented to console him for the loss, by making him a present of her person and her fortune; and agreeing to live with him under the appellation of the hostess of the Summerfield arms."

Our young Edmund, had with great propriety, submitted entirely to the direction of Lady Gretton and the lovely Eleonora, in the forming of his establishment at the castle, saying, "your Ladyship, and my adorable Ellen are better able to judge for me, than I am for myself, what kind of household will be properly suitable to our fortunes; but I dare say, you will both agree with me, that the state of the Castle ought to be materially reduced, from what it was, while Sir Gregory Gretton did it the honour to be its inhabitant; I shall only stipulate for retaining my brave and faithful fellow travellers, Selim my black servant, and little Toby my groom, who were omitted in the enumeration of my suit when I commenced my tour, together with my Valet de chambre, whom I have found

as honest as themselves, and who also wishes to continue in my service; all other matters I implicitly leave to your Ladyship and my dearest Ellen."

"In the main" replied Lady Gretton, "I agree with you, that your establishment my Edmund, on your marriage with Eleonora, should be somewhat inferior to that of my dear, Sir Gregory, but not by very many degrees—for my children are likely to be nobly appointed; your own estate Edmund, under the management of your excellent uncle, has been considerably improved, Lord W—— makes you a settlement of 4000£ a year, and I know my husband intends giving you 50,000£. with my daughter, your income, my dear Edmund, in the whole amount, will be such, as to warrant even a magnificent establishment; I however admire your prudence, and will use my best endeavours to contrive for you, such a household as at the same time, that it does suitable credit to your rank and estate, may yet not seem to vie in splendour, with the superior establishment

ment of my dear Sir Gregory; nor for a moment, hurt, perhaps, the feelings of your father by adoption, Lord W—— in its too evidently exceeding his own."

Let not the reader fastidiously disdain these little details—let him or her consider, that this work, whatever may be its fate, is not designed as a novel of romance, it is a mere domestic tale, containing memoirs of the houses of Summerfield and Gretton; whoever therefore expects towards its close, any marvellous adventure, will be egregiously disappointed; its sole aim having been to record the virtues of two respectable families, who had long meditated such an union, and who now were preparing to give, if providence so pleased, a permanence to both, by a marriage of the heir of the house of Summerfield, to the heiress of the house of Gretton.

Our young Edmund's establishment was accordingly formed in the completest manner imaginable, under the direction of Lady Gretton; the lovely
Eleonora

Eleonora having only interposed her good offices, at the suit of honest Humphry Claggett, that the Summerfield beagles might not be transferred to the Dale, but still retain their kennel, at the castle, under the name however of Lady Gretton's hunt, and to have their meetings as usual at the Summerfield arms—"and in making" she added "my dear mama this request, I have the sanction of our very knowing friend Mr. Quicksett, who says, that Summerfield is more central, and better suited for the purpose, than Hawthorn dale" the point was so settled—a point of infinitely higher importance was now to be settled,—it had not yet been determined, though every thing else had been properly adjusted, where the ceremony of marriage (in which the family at Myrtle Grove, no less than the worthy rector of Summerfield, and his excellent Lady, expressed themselves feelingly interested) should be celebrated, it produced a kind of friendly contention, but it was at length determined by our good Baronet, who observed, in giving his opinion at a council held expressly

pressly on the occasion, "as I mean, in condescension to our friends Lord W—— and his sister Lady Anne, as I mean" continued Sir Gregory, "to wave my own claim to the wedding's being celebrated, that is, the nuptial ceremony, in my own chapel at Hawthorn Dale, we are to hope, Lady Gretton and myself, that the Doctor and Mrs. Summerfield, nearly as they are related to Edmund, will give way like ourselves, to the earnest intreaties of Lord W—— and his sister, that Myrtle Grove should have the preference; that Doctor Summerfield should have the goodness, in his chapel, to give the young ^{couple} ~~couple~~ the church benediction." Sir Gregory's argument was unanswerable and the Peer's request was complied with; Myrtle Grove it was decided was to have the honour, as Lord W—— expressed himself, in using which expression, he was warmly supported by his sister, of cementing the long projected union, between the rising hopes of the two respectable houses of Gretton and Summerfield.

The

The day at length arrived, and our young and ardent Edmund, at a convenient hour, attended the dear goddess of his idolatry at Hawthorn Dale, in order from thence to escort her to Myrtle-Grove—dressed in her bridal attire; he found his Eleonora ready to receive the lord of her own, and her family's choice; to say that Eleonora was lovely, was not sufficiently expressive of her charms, she shone forth on that day, it might truly be affirmed, in all the blooming brightness of youthful beauty. Miss Musgrave, at Miss Gretton's particular request, was her principal bridemaids, the unaffected sweetness and at the same time elegant simplicity of whose manners, had greatly endeared her to Eleonora, and indeed to all Sir Gregory's family and friends; three other young ladies of Eleonora's select acquaintance as bridemaids, accompanied Miss Musgrave; they were all dressed in superb silver muslins, presented to them by the happy father of our beauteous bride—the bride herself was attired in virgin white, her head dress being most richly surmounted with

pearls; her ornaments on the bridal day having been chiefly ^{composed} comprized (and that at Lady Gretton's express desire) of her own supreme loveliness;—Eleonora was indeed somewhat taller than the celebrated Venus de Medicis, but in symmetry of form, and sweetness of countenance, might justly be said to vie with that charming statue;—the order of procession on the spousal day from Hawthorn Dale to Myrtle Grove, may be thus described.—

In a new post-coach of Edmund Summerfield's, drawn in honour of the Duke de Medina Sidonia, from whom he had received them, by the four beautiful mouse-coloured mules, rode Miss Musgrave, and her three assistant bridesmaids—it was followed by the coach and fix of our good Baronet, containing Lady Gretton, himself, and the happy bride and bridegroom; Edmund whose dress on that day was also white, ^{lightly} highly embroidered with silver, who had been as not un-aptly said, to resemble the Belvidere Apollo, was in fact, as charming
ing

ing a figure as can be well conceived; to this succeeded another coach and set of horses, of Sir Gregory's, in which rode the two sons of Mr. Seldon of Jamaica, who had now finished their education at the university, and were preparing to return to the west Indies; a young officer of the foot guards, a captain in colonel Wingfield's company, and the son of Mr. Selby, lately returned from Edingburgh, where he had been studying physic; these young gentlemen were designed to attend and take care of the bridemaids—they were uniformly habited, as indeed were all the gentlemen who were invited upon this auspicious occasion, in compliment to Lady Gretton, in the livery of her hunt, blue and buff—to which was now, for the first time added, a silver embroidered button-hole to the coats, and silver tassels and spangles to the waistcoats, which were on this occasion buff fatten; each gentleman wore, as did also the ladies, on the left breast, a large white favour of the richest silver tissue. In the next coach, which was the same which the honest 'Squire

had,

had, purchased to do honour to his friend Sir Gregory's shrieveallity, in it rode Mr. Quicksett, his Lady, and Mr. and Mrs. Musgrave sen. our facetious 'Squire having given this reason for thus dividing their families, saying "young people Musgrave, love best the society of those of their own age—we will therefore, with the good leave of our dames, consign your coach, for the conveyance of Wingfield and my daughter Margery; and William Musgrave, and our other daughter, who has in like manner taken her, as we, our wives, for better for worse, to the house of joy, to Myrtle Grove: the train was closed by the post-chaise of Mr. Selby, the worthy steward to our good Baronet, and Lord W——, containing himself and the philosopher of the Dale, Mr. Walter Rosemary, who at his own and indeed Lord W——'s desire, was permitted to assist at the nuptials of a young lady, who by her extraordinary acquirements in geography, did such exalted credit to the master, who had the honour of instructing her in that useful science. When the procession arrived

rived at Summerfield, it was joined by the carriages of Dr. Summerfield, Mr. Hawksby, and Mr. Adderly, containing themselves and their respective, and truly respectable consorts, and in that of Doctor Summerfield, Mr. Adamson,—these fell in with, and completed the train—which now proceeded without further delay to Myrtle Grove.

Every thing had been duly prepared for the reception of the company on this joyous occasion. The peer was in charming spirits. Sir Gregory's french horns and clarionets, which Lord W—— had borrowed for the day, announced the arrival of the company at the Grove;—the whole party sat down to an elegant DEJUNE, or, as 'Squire Quicksett in plain English expressed, to a very handsome breakfast of tea, chocolate, and coffee; together with a delightful cold collation, for those who rather fancied it, together with a variety of hot house fruits. After the party had been sufficiently entertained in the spacious saloon of Myrtle Grove, Lord W—— by a circuitous road,

road, led the way to the chapel, his Lordship chose that the procession should pass through the colonade, rather than by the private way through the house, —in order to give the little strewers of flowers, a more convenient scope for the performance of their part of the ceremony: twelve young girls, the eldest of whom was scarcely fifteen, similarly attired in white calicoe, scattered from baskets, which each child carried upon her arm, the choicest flowers of the season; they were under the direction of Mr. Adderly, who undertook the office of marshalling the order of the procession.—Lord W—— and Lady Anne led the way, they were followed by Sir Gregory leading Lady Gretton, the lovely Eleonora was led by the blooming Edmund, and each bridemaïd by their cavalier, agreeably to the rules of ancient chivalry; the cavalcade was closed by the several families, which with their equipages had paraded Hawthorn dale, all of whom now observed the same order in proceeding to Lord W——'s chapel, as they had in their progress to Myrtle Grove

Grove:—Doctor Summerfield, under the sanction of a special licence, read the marriage service, with a chearful yet serious solemnity—the youthful Edmund receiving the hand of his adored mistress, and bowing gracefully upon it, as Sir Gregory presented his daughter's hand to him:—the charming bride, though with down-cast eyes, yet streaming with modest affection, seeming gladly to surrender herself, thus authorized, to the avowed lord of her dearest inclination.

After the nuptial ceremony had thus been performed, the procession returned to the saloon in the same order in which it had set out, with this only difference, that the lovely Eleonora, in token of her conjugal obedience, now placed herself on the left hand of Edmund, whereas, in proceeding to the chapel previous to her marriage, she had with great propriety, taken the upper hand of her lover—this did not pass unnoticed by the facetious 'Squire Quicksett, who remarked upon it, "that it was a goodly sight to all who either were wives, or ever meant
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to be so—and call me” continued the honest Squire “a false prophet, if the present bride, more charming even than she is wealthy, does not prove herself a pattern to the whole county, and I would add, but that I perceive, the lovely bride’s blushes bid me say no more in her praise, to every lady in the whole land of Britain; but she must permit me to say, that so well do I think of Edmund, that I firmly believe, her vow of obedience will never be put to the test.”

“Let this be a day of jubilee,” exclaimed Lord W—— as he seated the bride on the left hand of Lady Anne, Lady Gretton being seated on the right, “let this be a day of jubilee, not only to my friends here assembled, but to all my neighbours and tenants, I know” continued his Lordship “that Sir Gregory has proclaimed the same at Hawthorn Dale, as have the good Doctor and his nephew throughout the parish and vicinity of Summerfield,” the french horns and clarionets which at this instant sounded, seemed to echo the cheering exclamation—it was a day

day of general joy, not only at the Dale, at the Castle, the Parsonage, and the Grove, but throughout every adjoining parish to the extent of many miles; the bells all rang, and the poor were plentifully fed; but, as if providence had been pleased to mark this auspicious day, in an especially gracious manner, while the company were yet seated at the dining table, two several packets were brought by the post, one of which was addressed to Lord W——, and the other to our worthy Baronet; the letter delivered by the servant to Lord W——, announced the vacancy of a rectory of 300*l*. per annum in his Lordship's patronage, which he had always intended for Mr. Adamson, as a reward to him for the part he had had, and so laudably executed, in the education of Edmund Summerfield—it was now confirmed to him; the other packet to Sir Gregory Gretton, contained letters from India—one of which was to Mr. Musgrave from his son—it announced his intention of revisiting England, by the next years fleet; his success in trade having not only suc-

ceeded, in consequence of Sir Gregory's patronage, beyond his most sanguine hopes, but that he, like his honoured patron, had married in the country to very singular advantage; the young gentleman stated himself as supremely happy in his matrimonial connexion. The letters were read aloud, they were a signal to the honest 'Squire Quicksett, for a loud exclamation of heart felt joy; instantly filling a bumper of burgundy, "since matrimony seems the order of the day, for I dare swear, we shall now soon see our friend Adamson within the pale, I call upon the company to fill their glasses—I mean the gentlemen, and even the ladies to take a sip, to the healths of the East India Mr. Musgrave and his bride; and to Mr. Adamson and his intended; for sure I am, judging from those maiden-like blushes of his, that he will, at least by the time, of young Musgrave's arrival, sport himself as true a benedict, as our young friend in India has done: and odds my little life," continued the 'Squire, "so hearty am I in the cause of matrimony, that I could find in my soul
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to propose a match between the philosopher of the Dale, and that worthy creature Mrs. Sagely; who now is, I can tell you, owing the kindness of our friend Hawksby, got up in the world, and likely to do Mr. Rosemary as much credit as a wife, as he does to the Dale as a philosopher" "excellent" observed Lady Anne, "and I, by way of giving further effect to Mr. Quicksett's proposal, and perhaps, as some atonement for having myself never married, will settled upon Mrs. Sagely an annuity of 50*l*. a year, with remainder to her husband in case of his surviving her; if Mr. Rosemary gives his consent to the uniting of his fortunes, to those of this truly good and useful woman;" the philosopher, as his custom was when he was pleased, rubbed his hands, bowed low, hemmed, and expressed himself as follows "so happily my good Lady, in consequence of the good Baronet's favour to me, do I pass my time in the cottage his honour was pleased to build for me, that in my conscience I thought I had nothing in this world to wish for, but, if it be your Ladyship's

good pleasure, and I see by his Lordship's smiles, that he is in the same opinion to advise matrimony to me, I shall not be tardy in complying—and though I am somewhat, my Lady, too far advanced in this life's journey, to have thought of marriage myself; yet as your Ladyship, and you my good Lord, and the worthy 'Squire, are pleased to think of it for me, if the gentlewoman Mrs. Sagely will accept of me, I am at her service.* Walter Rosemary again bowed low, rubbed his hands, sat down, and hastily swallowed the bumper of Madeira prescribed for him by the honest 'Squire, to the health of Mrs. Sagely, and to the speedy union of philosophy and physic. The 'Squire's spirits, as he expressed himself, were all on tip toe, and nothing could have restrained his facetiousness within any tolerable bounds, had not notice been now given by the renewed music of the horns and clarionets; that dinner was over in the servant's hall, and that the concert which Mr. Adderley was to lead, was about to begin. The company withdrew from the dining parlour

lour to the music room—the evening concluded with a ball, and a most charming illumination of the garden of Myrtle Grove; under the direction also of Mr. Adderley, who had likewise, with the assistance of Mr. Hawksby, constructed a beautiful firework, emblematic of this splendid marriage festival. The rejoicings were continued at Myrtle Grove during the remainder of the week; after which Edmund and his lovely bride retired to their own house, Summerfield Castle; there to enjoy the sweets of the most perfect conjugal bliss.



C H A P. CI.

AND now, courteous reader, having brought these memoirs to the usual closing scene of a novelist, the marriage of the principal characters; it only remains for me to take my leave, with the best grace in my power. We may presume, that those who have done the author the honour to peruse this little work, will necessarily feel themselves somewhat interested, in the fate and fortunes of the various persons of either sex, introduced in the course of it—it is a satisfaction they have a right to demand; let it suffice then to inform them, that the very respectable Maraboo of Senegal and his excellent wife, succeeded to the height of their most sanguine hopes, in the civilizing of their black subjects, and establishing through the laudable and incessant exertions of the truly pious missionary, who accompanied the African Prince and his consort to Senegal; of the christian religion, in its purest form, even the

the venerable christianity of the new testament; the Maraboo's Lady had blessed him with two sons, and two daughters, all of whom they had the supreme felicity to see arrive at years of maturity, uniformly and steadily following the examples of their admirable father and mother. The Maraboo continued throughout his life, his commercial intercourse with England, and by the means of vessels trading to and from Senegal, a reciprocation of friendly presents passed from year to year, between Sir Gregory's family and his own.

His excellent sister also and her husband Mr. Seldon, who for many years had given freedom to their slaves, pursued the same plan of rendering these poor worthy creatures happy; the consequence was, that no plantation, throughout the Isle of Jamaica was in so flourishing a state as their own. Mr. Seldon's negroes, through the ministry of good Mr. Devaynes, were in truth, more than nominal Christians; they observed and obeyed all the precepts of Christ's law, and

and were blessed accordingly. The young Seldons, who, when they had completed their education, returned to the bosom of their parents, and were themselves excellent young men, enjoyed the cheering spectacle; they both married well in Jamaica and were happy.

Mr. Adderley, whose farm, as well as cottage, was in the truest sense, une fermê orneê, went on to fertilize and improve his land, upon every plan of rational cultivation; his wife, the amiable Alicia, continued to approve herself an admirable helpmate—every thing flourished in their hands; their horses, their cows, and their sheep, were all of their own breed, and might justly be said to vie with the stock of the celebrated Bakewell, the Ditchly farmer; they had several children of either sex, whom they educated themselves, in the various accomplishments of music, dancing and fencing: often have Lord W—— and Lady Anne, after dropping in upon them, as Adderley and his Alicia, accompanied by their children, and attended by the constant companion

companion of their walks, their little beautiful beagle named tatler, were making their diurnal tour of their delightful farm; often have they been heard to exclaim "behold my sister, and behold my brother" was reverberated by Lady Anne, a sight of the most perfect domestic happiness—it terminated only with their lives, which were long, respectable, and progressively felicitous.

The worthy apothecary Mr. Hawksby, and his wife, lived to a good old age; in constant habits of intimacy with their neighbour Adderley, and universally respected, by not only the families at the Parsonage, the Castle, the Dale, and Myrtle Grove—but throughout the county.

The facetious and honest Squire Quicksett, in a state of the most florid and cheerful health, lived to see a numerous progeny from his two married daughters, and their husbands; in due time the colonel obtained, deservedly, the rank of a general officer; and the second

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son-in-law Mr. Musgrave, after the death of his worthy partner Mr. Simpson, became one of the first merchants upon the exchange of London; and through the interest of his friend Sir Gregory,—an East India director.

If the reader wishes to know what became of Mr. ^{Ballamoor}~~Ballamoor~~, and his colleague Sir Phelim O'Flimzy, whose fortunes had so materially been impaired, by their election contest with Lord W—and Sir Gregory; let him be informed, that their necessities not only carried them abroad, but kept them there; they both settled at Pisa in Italy, from whence they never returned—but poorly lived, a memorable example of the fatal consequences of basely stooping to ministerial seduction: they had both been the wretched dupes and victims to Dungarvon—Dungarvon only laughed at them both—but he never again attempted the virtue of any branch of the houses of Gretton or Summerfield. He consoled himself by means of large potations of his favourite beverage—old port, and descended

scended into the vale of years, constantly deriding all those as fools, or mad, who hold honour and virtue to be any thing more than names; and for ever asserting, that virtue and honour were only to be used by sensible men, as fit instruments of guile and deception, in order, the more conveniently by their means to mount the ladder of political fortune. Far differently of these matters thought the excellent Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton; far differently Lord W—— and his sister Lady Anne; the young Edmund and the lovely partner of his bed; far differently Edmund's most respectable uncle and aunt Summerfield.

Our worthy Baronet had acquired a most princely fortune in India, without a single stain upon his honour, and himself and Lady had now, for a number of years, made their fortune a blessing to all around them; many a widowed heart did they make sing for joy, and the grateful tongue of many an orphan, gave noble testimony to their benevolence; in effect, distress, was never heard to mur-

mer^u its complaints, within the reach of Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton's influence,—if virtue had been its companion; and even vice itself, if not absolutely incorrigible, had Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton's commiseration; “let us hope.” would they say, “that these poor misguided creatures may amend” of which, if they displayed any symptoms, they were sure to be encouraged and supported.

“Could there” would Sir Gregory say “be a more lamentable instance of profligate fallibility, than our now worthy, and completely reformed friend, Lord W——? he is now restored to virtue; and his fortunes, under Selby's good management of them, seem to sympathize with the restoration of his Lordship's morals: they are now, his fortunes, in so prosperous a state, that the heavy mortgage is nearly paid off;—principally perhaps owing to the uncommon productiveness of Lord W——'s Irish estate, from the time the good Selby put its tenantry upon the same establishment as
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my own ;” indeed in England as well as Ireland, the estates of our good Baronet, and of Lord W——, were in the most prosperous situation; the coal-mine, in the south-west quarter of Hawthorn Dale, had been successfully worked, under the inspection of Walter Rosemary, and now produced amazing quantities of most excellent coal;—the whole country and more especially the poor, were greatly benefited by it. “And pray son Summerfield” said Sir Gregory, addressing himself to the young and attentive Edmund, “let the annual prizes of industry never be omitted? we will now revive them in their full force, and the temple of Ceres shall again be opened, and the usual games renewed;” the proposition as might be supposed, met the cordial approbation of the virtuous Edmund, and his justly adorable bride;—they were each year, that is, the prizes of industry given, and the games celebrated, to the general joy, and indeed great utility of the whole body of the peasantry, appending to the Castle, the Dale and Myrtle Grove,

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But let not this history, while it may seem to dwell, enamoured as it were, of the virtues of this transcendently excellent nabob, his Lady, our young Edmund, and the lovely Eleonora; forbear to recount that spirit of honourable contentment, and laudable independency, that marked the character of Dr. and Mrs. Summerfield; several years had elapsed since that prince of corruption, Mr. Dunganvon, had attempted the Doctor's virtue; there had been a change of ministry, —our good Doctor was again assailed, again did he approve himself superiour to temptation, though the minister was now such, as, without stain to his name and honour, he might have served under—he was offered a Bishopric, but he refused it—and upon the same principle, that the pious Dr. Wilson, when Bishop of Soder and Man, refused an English Mitre, when offered to him: “I am content” he replied “with what I have, and I should therefore think myself a bad man, to grasp at more;” ⁱⁿ to this sentiment, highly to her honour, the Doctor's good Lady cordially acquiesced,

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One word of Edmund Summerfield's parliamentary conduct, he voted, and spoke, like his admirable father Gretton; like a true patriot, and in the same principles he educated his children, of whom he had no less than six—four sons, and two daughters.

Very many years, was it permitted them by providence, that Sir Gregory and Lady Gretton should enjoy the society of their children, and grand children;—their virtue was ^{strikingly} strikingly its own reward in this life, and they descended into the vale of years, under the assured hope, that when they should sink to rest here, they would rise to a still more ample state of happiness,—in another life.

THE END.

POSTSCRIPT.

POSTSCRIPT

It having been omitted to insert the mention of it in the proper place, for the reader's information, the circumstance is here subjoined; that Edmund Summerfield, who, in compliment to the Duke of Medina Sidonia, had, on the happy day of his marriage, made use of the Duke's mouse-coloured mules, to draw his new post-coach to Myrtle Grove; now thought proper to make that illustrious Spanish Grandee, some adequate return. As soon therefore, as he was well settled at the Castle of Summerfield, Edmund dispatched honest Humphry Claggett to Spain, with six beautiful English hunters—to which Lady Gretton added (having heard such a present would be most acceptable to the Duke.) a pack of beagles, as nearly as possible resembling her own—they were procured for her Ladyship, by that staunch sportsman, Mr. Quicksett, who likewise engaged a huntsman to accompany them; who for certain very justifiable reasons, wished to leave England. The horses and the hounds, arrived safe at the place of their destination, under the escort of Humphry Claggett, and were received by the Duke, with high satisfaction. Humphry was some two months and a few days upon his journey, and return home—he brought with him back, four pipes of the choicest wines of Spain, viz. two of the delicious white wine of Catalonia, called Sitges—and two pipes of the red wine of La Mancha, they were consigned to Edmund Summerfield, and Sir Gregory Gretton; the Sitges as a sweet—rich—wine, being particularly addressed to Lady Gretton, and her charming daughter, Mrs. Edmund Summerfield.

